TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 1995

THE STORIES OF THE YEAR

Eight pages of outstanding writing on the events that moved the world

TOMORROW

24-page sports section Unrivalled Boxing Day coverage

Labour may cut number of Scots MPs

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Tony Blair is to order a highpowered internal review of the impact of Scottish devolution on English politics and the right of Scottish Westminster MPs to decide political issues south of the

The party is expected to esnew year to examine possible answers to the so-called "West Lothian" question, which formed the intellectual basis of the most coherent attack on the devolution proposals of the

Callaghan government. The inquiry's remit will reflect the party leadership's determination to press ahead with plans for a Scottish Parliament, with tax-raising powers, early in the a Labour administration.

found to the question posed repeatedly in the late 1970s by Tam Daiyell,an anti-devolutionist, and then the MP for West Lothian - whether it was justified for Scottish MPs to vote legislation which no longer applied in Scotland, because it covered issues to be determined by the Scottish Parliameot.

The commission is likely to be

PETER VICTOR

Donald Dewar, the Chief Whip, or Lord Irvine, whom Mr Blair will appoint as Lord Chancel-lor if he wins the election. It will almost certainly include other senior front-benchers, including George Robertson, the shadow Secretary of State for Scotland and Ann Taylor, the shadow

Leader of the Commons. The Labour leadership is tablish a commission in the open-minded on the outcome and Mr Blair has made it clear that he has no intention of hacking down on the detailed commitment to a Scottish Parliament, already drawn up with the Liberal Democrats - whatever the conclusions.

But its existence raises the possibility for the first time that the present total of 72 Scottish MPs at Westminster - the large majority of whom are currently Labour - could be re-But it will seek to establish duced to compensate for new whether an answer can he powers which will be devolved under Scottish home rule.

So far, even though there are more Labour MPs per head of population in Scotland than in England, Labour has not sug-gested that the oumbers should oo English and possibly Welsh be reduced. But the Liberal Democrats are already committed to reducing the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster.

John Major is certain to press the arguments raised by the

meant that the "future status and number of Scotland's MPs at Westminster would inevitably he diminished".

The Tories are already preparing to question the po-tential role of Gordon Brown as Chancellor, sitting for a Scottish seat but fixing tax rates for England and Wales. Such tax rates might not be the final levels for Scotland - at least in theory - because of the Scottish Parliament's right to add or sub-tract up to 3p in the pound tn or from UK tax rates.

The terms of reference of the Labour inquiry are likely to be wide-ranging and could include an examination of whether there is any case for allowing some husiness for England and Wales to be decided only by English and Welsh MPs. Although Labour is committed to setting up a Welsh assembly, this would have more limited powers than the Scottish Parliament

and oo right to levy taxes.

The inquiry is less likely to re-open the question of regional government in England as a possible answer to the "West Lothian question". While Mr Blair is committed to a regiooal elected authority for London. the party has made it clear that it will only agree to regional asheaded by a high-ranking Scot-tish Labour figure with UK-wide shadow responsibilities, like "West Lothian questioo" in the run up to the general election, as he did in the 1992 campaign, a refereodum. I can't go on, the Pope tells followers

A weak and feverish Pope John Paul II was forced to interrupt his traditional Christmas greet-ings to the world yesterday, alarming the 30,000-strong crowd in St Peter's Square as he

was seen sighing and bowing his head in the window of his private Vatican apartments.

"I'm sorry, but I can't go on. Merry Christmas and God bless," the 75-year-old Pontiff said hurriedly as he retired inside to he sick. Twenty minutes later he respected to applications. later he reappeared, to applause from the crowd, but was unable to continue with the greeting he normally reads out in more than 50 languages.

A Vatican spokesman insisted that His Holiness was suffering from no more than a nasty bout of flu, hut the episode highlighted the frailty of a man who has undergone major surgery twice in the last three years and lost much of the driving energy that has characterised his 17 years as Pope. It was the first time since his

election in 1978 that John Paul had cut short his heavy Christmas programme of services and addresses. He had appeared to be in fine form until Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, when he gradually turned pale in the heat of St Peter's, filled with around 12,000 worshippers. When he returned to the sacristy, his vestments were bathed

By yesterday morning, he was running a temperature and had to bow out of Christmas Mass, which was takeo instead by the vicar-general of Vatican City, Cardinal Virgilio Noe. Traditionally, the Pope gives his Urbi et Orbi address, to the city of Rome and the world, from the balcony of St Peter's. Under the circumstances, however, he decided to deliver It from his private apartmeots.

He had just give his Christmas greeting in Italian and French wheo he was forced to stop. "Even the Pope has his weaknesses, but I'm trying to re-

This time last year, the Vatican was abuzz with speculation about the health of the Pope and possible candidates for the succession. Following a painful recovery from hip replacement surgery, he looked pale and weak in public and walked only

lowing Vatican insiders to predict with some confidence that he will fulfil his dream of seeing the Catholic church through the millennium.

Reaction in Rome yesterday was noticeably free of panic. Weather forecast, page 2 There's been a bug going pected to spend the rest of the code http://www.vatican.va.



Struggling on: The Pope addresses crowds shortly before retiring inside

40 degrees," said Paolo Vanni-

The Pope himself was ex-

recuperated from illnesses in ni, a physicist with connections in the church. "Why should the Vatican walls offer any special protection?"

the past. As for his Christmas message and greeting, the Vatican announced they would be available for the first time on the Internet - address

Thousands, many of them Mus-

lims or Serbs - the latter also

celebrate Orthodox Christmas

next month - turned ont for

Midnight Mass at the Catholic cathedral, a lively social event

uniting the city and its longing

for a return to real life. "I have

good news for you today. A

child is born to us: peace," the

Cardinal said in a sermon that

provoked lengthy applause

from the congregation. "Hope comes with this Christmas."

Three women gathered out-

vice agreed. "Hope is the most important thing," said Jovanka Vilic, a Serb married to a Croat.

"I would rather go without wa-

ter during the day or bread if

this Christmas, except it was

"thousands". He emphasised

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Mari Minst Minst Miss First Name.....

with the help of a cane.
10 1995 he has remained of snow on Christmas Eve when mainly dry day with sunny spells although it will be cold. Scotland he set out from Cape Wrath light to pick up supplies and mail in a Land Rover. He had round and several of my friends year at his country residence, have had temperatures of 38 or Castel Gandolfo, where he has and Northern Ireland can exsubdued, but much stronger, alpected heavy snow at times, es-

more than 4,000 families in the Western Isles and Shetland without electricity and facing Boxing Day without heat or light because of hlizzard conditions. Many people enjoyed a less leak white Christmas after

snow fell in Durham, north Yorkshire and parts of Northern Ireland and East Anglia.

A London Weather Centre spokesman predicted further snowfalls after Northern Ireland

had its first white Christmas in

Christmas snowstorms left

Several people were involved from their van after crashing in accidents. In north-west Scotland, lighthouse keeper Donald Maciver cheated death in a hlizzard, wading two miles through snowdrifts to find shelter. Mr Maelver, 44, ran into four feet to strike out on foot for a hut on a Ministry of Defence firing range. Mr Maelver said last night: "If it weren't for the hut

More snow on the way

I would be dead." A Western Isles man and his daughter refused to be rescued during a hlizzard unless police also took their wild goat. The cold snap looks set to spread south, with Arctic air

covering the whole of the UK. England and Wales will have a pecially in the Highlands. Nine of the ten race meetings

scheduled for today have either been ahandnned already or

face a similar fate this morning. Blizzards strike;

Briton's suicide mars Bosnia celebrations

Sarajevo

Christmas, which has brought the first hopes for peace to Bosnia, began on a sombre note for British troops in Sarajevo with the news that a comrade had apparently committed suicide on Christmas Eve. But for most it was a joyous event. Thousands packed the Catholic cathedral for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, where Sarajevo's Cardinal, Vinko Puliic, his voice hreaking, told worshippers: The war is over. Let there be

For the first Christmas in four years, the city resounded to music and laughter rather than the sounds of war. "It's the first time

IN BRIEF

since the war began that there is nn shooting at Christmas," Sarajevo. Edi Hrnjic, a young Muslim, said as he loitered on the Cathedral steps with a friend. "I'm hoping it's the first Christmas in peace-time," Elvina Dzafic, a Muslim woman, said. "It's

shooting, and we have everything we need on the table.' Proof of the changes came as we walked across Vrbanja bridge, probably the single most dangerous place in the city, to visit French troops celchrating

much better than last year, be-

cause it's calm, there is nn

It was here that Suada Dilberovic, a student attending a peace demonstration ou 5 April 1992, was killed by a sniper - the Sarajevo.

The latest to die was Signalman Mark Maxwell, 22, of 7 Sig-nal Regiment, apparently by his own hand. He was found in his room at a Nato base in the city with a gunshot wound in the head. "It appears there was no nne else involved," Colonel Mark Rayner, spokesman for Nato's Implementation Force (I-Fnr), tald reporters. Maxwell's commanding offi-cer, Major Julian Turner, said

his death had come as a great shock to his comrades. "He was always a happy lad, he made other people smile. That's why his death was so unexpected." "I dnn't know why - he was quite a pal," Signalman Glen

MaeDonald said as he queued for lunch at the hattered Nato base in Zetra Olympie stadium after a Christmas service. The cooks, draped in streamers and red caps, did their best to keep it festive, doling ont turkey and demanding kisses from the few

women in the area. The officers, as tradition dic-tates, awoke the men yesterday morning with cups of tea laced with rum, and helped to serve lunch, accompanied by Spanish champagne. Brigadier Tony Raper, who has troops dotted around Sarajevo - including 19 unfortunates stuck on top of Mount Bjelasnica, the Olympic ski mountain where the tem-

go and chat to the men, dish them out some booze, make sure they're happy," he said. The Americans were also celebrating, with iced tea and lemonade: the US Army, unlike its Nato allies, is dry ou operatinns. "I hope the peace stays," said Warrant Officer Terry

Speak, who had delivered Christmas lunches to the Bjelasnica troops, though they had to walk down the mountain to collect it. "It was quite strange driving through Sarajevo last night seeing so many people walking around, holding hands, hars and cafés full."

The 10pm curfew was lifted for the holidays, and the streets

perature was minus 36C - was doing the rounds yesterday. "I Eve with Sarajevans celebrating." ter during the day or bread only we could have peace."

Stamps stuck with off-shore discount

Message of peace CHRIS BLACKHURST

THOSE WHO BRING PEACE.
AND RECONCILATION UN-

The Queen concentrated on Page 3 riculum for under-5s. Page 4

peace moves around the world rather than the warring factions within her own family in her Christmas message. Nursery plans Labour is to rewrite the cur-

Hope for sale Big stores are expecting shoppers to spend more in this

contents

year's winter sales. Page 3 Sales guide, page 15 BUSINESS 16 CROSSWORDS 2, 24



sold ot a cheap rate by a company based in the Isle of Man. while retailers and sub-post of-fices on the mainland are forced to sell them at full price. The company is exploiting a littleknown practice where the Post

a discount.

Royal Mail stamps are being

tensibly for other dealers and

Office sells stamps to dealers at Christmas stamps in stock at our Dealers buy the stamps os-

peak Christmas period, selling on 1,000. Stamps for packages 25p first-class and 19p secondare available. Warwick guaranelass British Christmas stamps tees: "All our stamps are in good at 10 per cent off their face condition with gum and norprice. A mailshot from the mally supplied in full sheets. We company, sent to would-be cus-tomers on the mainland, boasts: obtain them from overstocked stamp dealers around the world, "We now have the British 19p fire salvage, liquidations etc. gal for use." regular 10 per cent discount below face. The 19p is the most collectors and then sell them popular value for cards."

to the firm in the Isle of Man. Warwick Estates in Douglas, Isle of Man. has completed the on 300; £9.50 on 500; and £19 many British stamps he had sold though, that he did not sell cheap Royal Mail stamps just at

They are perfectly valid and le-Graham Warwick of Warwick Estates refused to say how

NEWS 2-6 REVIEW OF THE YEAR 7-14 SALES GUIDE 15 SPORT 17-22, 24 TELEVISION & RADIO 23

The poor of Paris flock to 'supermarket' giveaway

In Britain we tend not think of the French as particularly charitable, but in case you need convincing that the British do not have a monopoly on good works, consider this: French television's Telethon -- an almost exact counterpart of the BBC's Children in Need - raised a record 377 million francs (£49.6m) this year, more than four times the BBC's £11.9m. This was achieved when all France was at a standstill because of the strikes, in a country where the national, and many other, lotteries are institutions of long standing.

Charity ventures organised in

Mary Dejevsky discovers the festive season brings out the generosity in the French

Party - decided that instead of

distributing food parcels to

Paris this Christmas - and for linked with the Communist many Christmases past - range from bazaars set up by parishes, clubs and other organisations, including the French Navy to help fund its charitable work, to premises temporarily converted into giant hostels to house the Paris 15 coupons, each for a different counterparts of Crisis, the UK charity for the homeless.

- originally, but no longer, sents, even Christmas trees.

those on its register, it would set up a three-day "supermarket" where people could choose. within limits, what they wanted. Each "chequebook" contained group of goods: groceries, soft drinks, sweets, dairy products, celebrate its 50th fruit, meat (including one anniversary, Secours Populaire turkey per family); small pre-

The Bercy palace of sport in a benighted redevelopment area of east central Paris is not the first place that springs to mind as a repository of the festive spirit. But in the days before Christmas il rang with excited voices as a seemingly endless stream of people young mothers with small children, adolescents, and wizened elderly women - made their way around the concrete "palace" and across a muddy building-site

bags or pulled little shopping carts and, when courteously stopped at "checkpoints" along the way, waved their books of coupons - or offered complicated hardluck stories in which the words "local council", "postal strikes" and "it must be a mistake" figured large.

They were all benefiting - or hoping to henefit - from Supermarché libre - mounted by Secours Populaire to supply poor families in the Paris region with Christmas provisions.

to join a teeming queue waiting in front of a half-renovated warehouse.

Everyone carried large empty

Many arrived by coach; gathering obediently in labelled groups before joining the hundreds-strong queue. Others came on the now working - and temporarily free - metro and suburban railway.

The project was greeted with nthusiasm. "It was an hour's journey in the coach, but it's brilliant," said Martine who had two small children in tow. "You can choose, without wonying what it costs." She had two large bags, completely full, including the turkey and a pack of giant leeks sticking out of the top. Her only disappointment was the dearth of toys. There were

books, but she thought they looked too like textbooks. Some people tried with varying degrees of guile (and success) to swap their grocery "cheque" for sweets - some-

thing the system was devised to prevent. Others were frustrated with the queuing, some com-plained about people with photocopied" cheques. Some of the helpers worried at having to make so many snap decisions about who to lel in and who not. But in the course of three days more than 16,000 people cashed their "cheques" worth more than 400 francs per

Jackson holds top spot of the year

Mike Flowers narrowly failed to become the least likely recipient of the pop charts' Christmas
No 1 slot when Michael Jack son held the top spot with his

"Earth Song". The 35-year-old former busker and his group looked likely to top the festive charts with the easy-listening rendition of Oasis' ballad "Wonderwall". But Jackson managed to hang on for the third week.

The Mike Flowers Pope record sold more than 10,000 copies in its first two days of release at HMV stores alone. and entered the charts at number two. Jackson, the odds-on favourite at 4-7, made bookmakers William Hill a small profit. They stood to lose around £125,000 if Mike Flowers Pops reached No 1.

Triple murder charge

A man was remanded in custody until he appears before Colwyn Bay magistrates tomorrow charged with three murders. Peter Moore, 49, of Kinmel Bay. Clwyd, is accused of murdering Tony Davies, 40, of Colwyn Bay, who was found stabbed on a beach at Abergele, on Mon-day last week, Keith Randles, 49, of Chester, who was found stabbed at a construction site in Anglesey last month and an unidentified man whose body was found in woods near Ruthin on Saturday.

Dogs savage boy, 11 A boy savaged by two rottweilers was "critical but stable" in Booth Hall Hospital in Manchester. David Kearney, 11, was mauled after he climbed a fence to recover a football from a back yard at Darwen, Lancashire, where three rottweilers were kept. Two of the dogs were later destroyed at the owner's

Home repossessions

Almost 50,000 families have had their homes repossessed in the last 12 months, according to a new report by the housing

Cantona captured

Manchester United's Eric Cantona, banned from soccer for eight months in 1995 for kicking a spectator, is to join the immortals in Madame Tussaud's waxwork museum in London. The model will be unveiled around May.

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Sacked prisons chief lambasts Howard

The sacked prisons chief Derek Lewis yesterday issued a strongly worded warning to the Government about the dangers

of making prison life too harsh. Mr Lewis spoke out as he prepared to publish a book in the New Year which threatens to "lift the lid" on the Government's beleaguered prison policy, sparking fresh embar-rassment for the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

In an outspoken attack on jail policy - just days after prison inspectors walked out of Holloway women's jail over harsh conditions there - Mr Lewis expressed his concern that politicians were overly concerned with excessively tough prison

Prisons should be austere and there should not be any hint of luxury, Mr Lewis said.

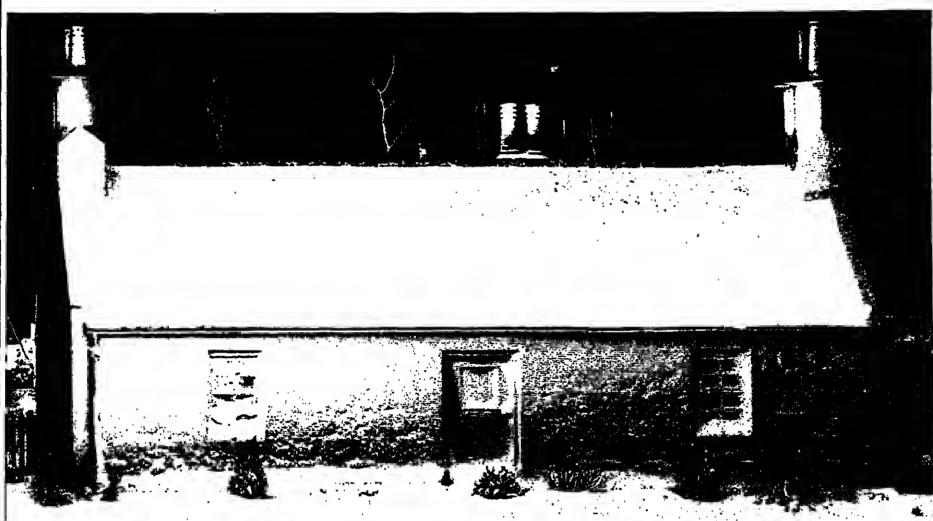
"But what worries me at present is that the political debate - public attention being focused on prisons, the emphasis being given to austerity and security - will upset the balance which is so important.

"Prisons are not serving the public well if they simply turn out embittered, alienated prisoners who were going to go straight back to a life of crime. There is a very important rehabilitative task to be done." He argued that too many offenders "at the margins" were

already being sent to prison. Mr Lewis - who was sacked as director-general in October - also accused Mr Howard of "too much political involvement" in the Prison Service's day-to-day running. He said there was a "very substantial dif-ference of view" between them about what their relationship

Mr Lewis made his criticism just 24 hours after the former Parkhurst Prison governor, John Marriott, branded Mr Howard a "small-minded man" who "mistakes public rhetoric

Cold turkey as blizzards strike



Snow place like home: A house near Banchory, on Royal Deeside, transformed into an igloo by the ravages of the Christmas Day weather

PETER VICTOR

More than 4,000 families in the Western Isles and Shetland suf-

hlizzard conditions. The weather was so bad that Shetland Islands Council ordered snow plough drivers to stay at home for their own

Hundreds of engineers battled against atrocious conditions to restore power in the High-lands and Islands and north-east of Scotland. But many families ate a cold Christmas meal amid White Christmas: Thousands suffering seasonal snow chaos

fered Christmas Day without some of the worst weather in

electricity and face Boxing Day living memory.
without heat or light because of Mike Keohane, a spokesman

for the power-generating company Hydro Electric, said last night: "Despite the valiant efforts today of our repair teams in Shetland and the Western Isles we are talking about po-tentially another 24 hours

without any electricity.
"It's just horrendous. Our response is clearly that this has been an act of God - a storm which produced winds in excess

3.56 pm to 8.06 em
4.06 pm to 8.15 em
3.58 pm to 8.18 em
3.54 pm to 8.25 em
3.43 pm to 8.31 em
3.47 pm to 8.48 em
4.02 pm to 8.48 em

HIGH TIDES

313 am 3.7 3.26 am 2.15 am 41 2.79 pm

Carr 0336 481777 for the latest local and respect traffic most

Hud Ulbert Docky B.O7 am 7.5 9.15 pm

of 100mph has done very significant damage.

"Clearly what has happened is very regrettable and it is terrible on Christmas Day hut power cuts certainly occur two or three times a year. Hydro Electric covers one

quarter of the land mass of Great Britain but only 2 per cent of the population. Many of its customers are supplied with electricity along single cables go-ing up remote glens with small dwellings.

"It just takes one of these by drifts more than 30ft high. lines to go out," Mr Keohane Thousands more homes were said. "I think those who live in

More than 20 airline pasremote locations themselves know that you have to accept the risk at this time of the year. sengers were stranded in a ho-tel near Sumburgh Airport. The council convenor Lewis It's not like living in a city where you can switch electric-Smith said: "The snow ploughs ity from four directions." can't cope. Heavy snow in Shet-The hlizzard left Shetland's

land is highly unusual and the only snow blowers are at the main amport." Clearing the 500 miles of blocked roads could 22,000 residents with a whiteout Christmas. All roads outside the county town of Lerwick were hlocked, the town and its take several days, he added. population of 8,000 were cut off

vere weather made driving con-ditions hazardous in much of

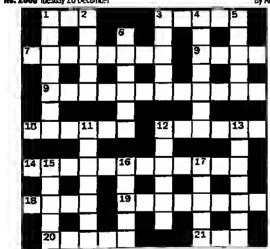
Scotland and oorthern England and more snow was threatis that if you don't need to travel - then don't."

Goat owner Anne Louise Macdonald, who crashed her van in the Western Isles hlizzard, refused to be rescued unless police also took care of the wild goat. PC John Hier, who rescued Miss Macdonald and her father, Jimmy, said: "We told them the goat would be all right in their van until later. But the gentleman and the lady

Police fear lorry driver

abducted French student

for strong leadership". concise crossword



For one (3) Not working (4) Safety devices for jet pilots (7.5) 10 Pattern of small pieces

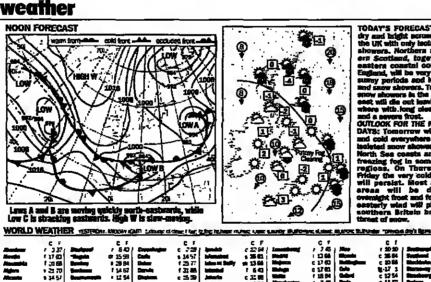
(6) 12 Whole (6) 14 Handicap (12) 18 Card game (4) 19 Cut (8) 20 Give up (5) 21 24 hours (3)

Useless medicine (7) Lift up (5) Face shield (5)

4 Minaret (anag) (7) 5 Noisy display (5) 6 Unmoving (6) 11 Mollusc (7) 12 Girl nice in the end? (6) 13 A coming back in (2-5) 15 Mild sarcasm (5) 16 With force of law (5) 17 Bitter (5)

Solution to Saturday's Concise Crossword: Across: 1 Lick. 4 Cures (Liqueurs), 9 Cream, 10 Leonine, 11 Untaught, 12 Akin, 13 Fruit machines, 17 Maul, 18 Ptomaine, 21 Glanced, 22 Obese, 23 Ebony, 24 Kilt.

Down: 2 Inept, 3 Kumquat, 4 Coldheartedly, 5 Riot, 6 Stick-on, 7 Scruff, 8 Vein, 14 Ululate, 15 Hammock, 16 Skewer, 17 Magi, 19 Ideal, 20 Echo



AIR QUALITY

London
S England
Weles
C England
N England
Scottand
N Instand

TODAY'S FORECAST: Molnly dry and bright across much of the UK with only isolated snow showers. Northern and east-ern Scotland, together with eastern coastal counties of England, will be very cold with surny periods and heavy hell mid snow showers to longist the snow showers by the north and east will die out issiving everywhere with long olear periods and a severe frost.

OUTLOCK FOR THE MEXT FEW DAYS: Tomorrow will he dry mort cold everywhere with just isolated snow showers near to North See coasts and patchy freezing fog in some castral regions. On Thurstay and Friday the very cold weather will peraist. Most northers are as will be dry with oversight frost and fog, but an easterly wind will pick up in

"If he is an innocent man why has he not come forward? Either he has not heard about the appeal or you can draw your sin-ister implications. Someone out there knows who he is. The quicker they tell us the quicker we can get to her."
Thousands of posters show-

ing a picture of Celine, asking
"Have you seen this girl?" and
stating "The police fear for her
safety" are to be distributed
within the next few days.
Celine was given a lift from



junction of the M4 and A34 near Newbury last Tuesday.

He was wearing a grey Top, the poster shows a videofit of the The poster describes the

white Mercedes cab she got into as pulling a grey trailer with a Thermo King refrigeration unit. The driver was white, 30 to 35, with short fair hair and a chin



Poster campaign: Left, the videofit of the driver compiled by a witness who saw him with Celine, right

driver, compiled by a witness who saw Celine with him.

Celine, of Sey-Sur-Saone. France, had come to Britain to spend Christmas with a cousin who works at a hotel in the Chieveley service area at the strap beard but no moustache. Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Tories plan for more secure PM

DONALD MACINTYRE

Senior Tory backbenchers will next month begin a wideranging review of the rules for party leadership contests which could make it harder for MPs from office.

Detectives seeking a missing French student believe she was probably abducted by a lorry driver who gave her a lift.

Despite widespread appeals, the driver, who picked up Ce-line Figard, 19, at a service area near Newbury, Berkshire, has

Detective Superintendent Des Thomas said yesterday:

not come forward.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, will in the New Year propose that leading officers begin in earnest to examine options for change to the rules under which an incumbent leader can be replaced.

sulted his predecessor Cranley Onslow about the options covered during the last review, which followed Lady Thatcher's departure in 1990. That resulted in the present requirement that a contest can only be held if 10 per cent of the parliamentary party signify in writing

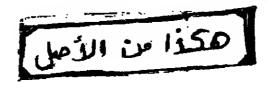
that they want such a contest.

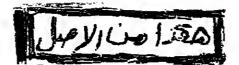
One member of the 1922 executive said that "nothing will be barred" in an examination of the present leadership rules, and that the officers will not be its electoral interests.

Sir Marcus has already con-rushed into making early recommendations.

These could include removing the right to challenge a sitting prime minister for the leadership at all, if he is of sound mind, or raising the proportion of MPs required to demand a

Some senior Tories argue. however, that the increasing threat of leadership challenges adds to turmoil within the party and unnecessarily destabilises the party at the expense of





news

The Queen's speech: Warring family factions take a back seat to the courage of peace workers all over the world

A royal message of peace and goodwill

JOHN MCKIE

The Queen yesterday concentrated on the bright side of life in her annual message to the Commonwealth; she did not mention the warring factions within her own household, but dwelt instead on the peace initiatives around the world and narrated footage of the royal family on its best behaviour and at its most effective.

In the broadcast from Sandringham, Norfolk, her sombre delivery contrasted with scenes of the royal family in happier mood at this summer's VE and VJ Day 50th anniversary celebrations, and her own successful tour of South Africa in

The starring roles were taken by the older members of the family, with glimpses of Prince Charles and his estranged wife. Princess Diana was far from the royal festivities in Norfolk, playing an uncharacteristically low-profile role.

The Queen, in her speech, spoke of the successful brokering of peace in Northern Ireland and Bosnia, and paid tribute to various Commonwealth volunteer organisations. In particular, she mentioned an Irish nurse whom she met in South Africa, Sister Ethel Normoyle, who teaches underprivileged children in a township just outside Port Elizabeth.

"The traditional Christmas message speaks of peace and goodwill among men," the Queen said, "It is the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world who spread that message and it is for the rest of us to welcome it.'

She gave special emphasis to the VE and VJ Day festivities in May and August. "It was difficult to know that day who felt the greater pride," she said, "those of us watching or those of us on parade. It was an unforgettable day for all of us." There was praise also for the volunteer workers in countries "from Bosnia to Rwanda, from Chechnya to Cambodia", whom

the Queen recently invited to Buckingham Palace. Like the people who fought

make no claim to be anything out of the ordinary, but their commitment is very far from ordinary," she said.

The royal family, without the Princess of Wales or the Duchess of York - gathered for the traditional church service at Sandringham, Norfolk, yester-day. It was the first time the Princess of Wales had missed

Royal family members who attended the 45-minute service included the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princes Charles, Edward, William and Harry, Princess Margaret, and the Princess Royal, accompa-nied by her husband Captain Tim Laurence and her children Peter and Zara Phillips. The family spent the rest of the day

Buckingham Palace had halved the usual quota of photographers and journalists given access to cover the Sandringham service to only 20. This decision was thought to be an attempt to recover some of the mystique the royal family has lost over the past two decades.

A palace spokesman said that the Queen's decision not to mention her family was not unusual "She has been doing the speech for 40 years," he said. "It's a Commonwealth message, and if she chooses to adopt a bigger theme, then that's a matter for her."

In his distant address yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, did mention the schisms within the royal family. He said that the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children "have been at the forefront of our prayers as we sense afresh some of the

pain they carry".
Princess Diana had left journalists none the wiser as to her whereabouts. Some felt she might have been at her hrother's home of Althorn, in Northamptonshire, while other reporters thought she was heading for a skiing trip in Colorado. The Duchess of York, although not present at the church, later lunched with her daughters Beatrice and Eugenie at the Wood Pimi Bouse on the



Standing together: The royal family gathers outside the church at Sandringham after the traditional Christmas service Photograph: John Stillwell / PA

Good news is the focus in even the worst years

Christmas may have changed since her accession, and the situation in her household has shifted dramatically in the last week alone, but the Queeo chose not to break with tradition in her message to the Commonwealth yesterday.

Choosing to avoid any reference to the expected divorce of her eldest son and his wife, the

few years of her troubled reign. In 1992, the year she had called her "annus horribilis" in a speech just before Christmas. the collapse of the marriages of her two eldest sons was heavily publicised and Windsor Castle was badly damaged by fire.

But in that year's Christmas message she did not refer specifically to such problems. Instead, she paid tribute to Lord Cheshire VC, the founder of Cheshire Homes for the disahled. She acknowledged the difficult days the family had faced but stressed the continuity of her reign. "To me, this con-tinuity is a great source of comfort in a world of change, tension and violence," she said.

Queen focused on traditional Last year she also tried to extenses—international strife and hardship and, of course, the good news from a bad year, reciting a 1919 poem from Siegfried Sassoon, "Everybody Sang". She quoted: "Everybody suddenly burst out singing. And I was filled with such delight."

The therms of hardson and volcince, "she said.

Last year she also tried to extend soon news from a bad year, reciting a 1919 poem from Siegfried Sassoon, "Everybody suddenly burst out singing. And I was filled with such delight."

The theme of good news keeps recurring. Ten years ago it cropped up "in spite of the frightening headlines". "It used to be said," she recalled, "that 'no news is good news', but today you might well think that, good news is no news." enough grains of sand are dropped into one side of a pair of scales they will, in the end, tip against a hump of lead."

In previous decades, the Queen was more inclined to talk about her family than she is now. She praised "the great family fes-tival" of Christmas in her 1965 address, but her first speech in 1952 was much more personal. "Each Christmas, at this time, my beloved father broadcast a message to his people in all parts of the world. Today I am doing this to you who are my people. As hie used to do."

The following year the Queen was revealed as a prond parent, a quality she has seldom shown recently. "We all want our children at Christmas time. I hope that perhaps mine are listening to me now, and I am sure that when the time comes they, too, will be great travellers."



Sister Ethel Normoyle won praise in the Queen's message

Don't compare me to Teresa'

The missionary nun singled out by the Queen in her Christmas speech told the world yesterday: "Don't compare me to Moth-

The modest Sister Ethel Nor-moyle, who has dedicated her-self for the last seven years to helping the poor in a shanty town in South Africa, said she "delighted" to he mentioned in the monarch's

Christmas message.
But she said: "I don't think I would want any symbolism to Mother Teresa. We have just both shared in the theme of the poverty of people. We are just trying to do what everybody here is doing - to reach out to people who are broken and re-pressed. I'm just trying to do my hit to bring the compassion of Christ to people.

The more you are involved in their lives, you become very aware of the poverty and suffering." The modest 50-year-old nun, from Liscasey, County Clare, in the west of the Irish Republic, met the Queen when she

visited South Africa in March. The Queen used the historic occasion to see the work of the Little Company of Mary, in Missionvale, near Port Elizabeth, where Sister Ethel and her colleagues give hope and support to thousands of people living in

horrendous poverty.

Sister Ethel described her feelings on the sunny day the Queen and her entourage called at Missionvale's school and clinic, built from humble beginnings seven years ago, and then looking its very best. "She was really wonderful, in-terested and caring." Sister

Ethel also praised the Princess of Wales's campaigning for disadvantaged groups in Britain. "I have great admiration for her - she's really caring and has great compassion.

Sales set to bring a happy **New Year** to stores

GLENDA COOPER

Big stores are expecting restored consumer confidence tn make this season's sales a success for both customer and retailer following last year's

'disappointing' spending.

Mnrtgage and interest-rate cuts have played their part, coupled with the larger stores slashing prices by half on many

"Overall we're expecting people to take advantage of the sales," said a spokeswoman for the British Retail Consortium. "We're expecting them to be hetter than last year." She added that January 1995 was a "disappointment", with retail sales dropping to £10.75bn from £20.7bn last December.

This year is likely to be bet-ter, with a more robust consumer confidence: "We've also got the prospect of more money in our pockets in April and possibly another interest-rate cut in the New Year. This should make people a little

more comfortable about spend-ing," the spokeswoman said. Richard Perks, retail analyst with the market research organisation Verdict, said: "The sales should be good, partly because of poor overall retail sales this year." He expects retailers to be cautious, and to knock down "a lot" of prices on their stock.

Paul Keenan, PR manager of the MetroCentre in Gateshead, Europe's largest shopping cen-tre agreed: "There will be a lot of bargains and we think purchasing will be very good." Last year the centre saw 142,000 shoppers through its doors on the first day of the sales.

Post-Christmas sales in the larger stores can create a formidable turnover. Selfridges, a major retailer on London's Oxford Street, says that the winter sale accounts for 15 per cent of its annual turnover. The first week of the sale is also Self-ridges' busiest week of the year with 85,000 people expected through the door tomorrow.

Marks & Spencer would not reveal details of their salelines in advance. But a spokeswoman said: "The sale is a way of clearing merchandise, clearing win-ter stock out so that we can start introducing the Spring ranges." Liberty's of Regent Street store expects to see at least 50,000 bargain-hunters on the

first day of the sale, and is offering half price on designer names such as Vivienne West-

wood and Liza Bruce. The frozen food giant locland will join the fray this week by firing an early shot across the hows of competitors in the New Year supermarket price war. The high-street chain is turning the clock back a decade by cutting prices to 1986 levels on hun-dreds of items for two weeks from 30 December. "Everyone wants bargains in the New Year and other retailers may have to fullow our move," said Iceland chairman Malcolm Walker.

Most of the hig stores, in-cluding Selfridges and Liberty, begin their sales at 9am tomorrow. But for those who believe there is only one sale, Harmds will not be starting

until 3 January. Sales Guide, page 15

Helping porpoises slip through the net

in the second in a weekly series, Nicholas Schoon reports on dangers faced by the dolphin's smaller cousin

The harbour porpoise is the smallest and by far the most common of the whales and dolphins living in the waters around Britain. But its population is thought to be in decline and it is now very rarely seen in the English Channel or the southern sector of the North Sea.

It is one of Britain's most It is one of Britain's most threatened or fastest declining species and habitats, for which

rescue plans have been pro-posed by a steering group of government scientists and wildlife conservation groups.

The best-documented threat it faces is from bottom-set drift nets, which are like curtains, sev-

nets, which are tike currains, several miles across, running along the sea-bed. The porpoises become entangled in these nets and drown; surveys have suggested about 10,000 die this way each year, mostly in the North Sea, off the coast of Denmark, and the Celtic Shelf waters off south-west England and southern freland.

porpoise, phocoena phocoena, ramming and battering them is also vulnerable to long-lasting, toxic pollutants which mal Research Unit in Cam-



into the small fish it preys upon and then accumulate in the porpoise's body fat. It may also be frightened away from busy areas by the noise and move-ments of ships and boats. The males grow up to 1.7m

long. The females are sexually mature at only 14-months-old and they give birth to single calves. They are shy and secretive, compared to dolphins, which are often bold, curious and playful with people and ships. Consequently, little is known about the purpoise's so-cial and family life. It surfaces only briefly to breathe. Earlier this year it emerged that dol-phins sometimes kill their small-But scientists believe the er relatives in British waters,



Endangered: Action is needed to safeguard the grey porpoise in British coastal waters

of cetaceans in the North Sea, the English Channel and Celtic Shelf, using ships and aircraft and funded by the European Commission. This led to the first population estimate for the turning to waters where it was porpoise - between 267,000 formerly found.

bridge organised a large survey and 465,000 dwell in these seas. The Steering Group proposes a target of maintaining this population and ensuring in the long term that no man-made factors stop the porpoise re-

dons for achieving this are further river and coastal pollution curbs, and changes in fishing practices and net design to reduce the drownings.

The cost is estimated at

£250,000 a year.

Hunger drives rare birds ashore providing treats for twitchers

Bird watchers have had a Christmas bonus this year with a flurry of sightings of the rare Arctic redpoll - a small grey-and-white finch.

There has also been an arrival nf waxwings, pinkish-brown starling-like hirds with promi-nent head crests and red, yellow and white wing markings, from the northern forests of Scandinavia and Russia.

One of the best areas for spotting is north Norfolk, where here have been up to five Arctic redpolls in fields between Cromer and East Runton, while a flock of 14 waxwings has been seen near Sheringham. Arctic redpolls have also

been identified at the William Thurpe Nature Reserve near Baslow, Derbyshire; at Brentwood, Essex; in a wood near Rutland Water, Leicestershire; near Newborough, Stafford-shire; and at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Vanc Farm near Kinross, Tayside.

More than 120 birds have been reported around Britain since the record invasion began last manth, with some of the largest numbers appearing in Orkney and Shetland.

Waxwings, which feed on The severe weather in the berries, have been reported at and Nottinghamshire.



Waxwing: Suffering food shortages in northern forests

Fazakerley, Merseyside; Holk-ham, Nnrinlk; and near Barns-Northern Isles should not bother them as they are among the world's hardiest birds, known to ley and Doncaster in South survive temperatures as low as -60C in Alaska. Their flight to Britain is not considered weather-related but is caused by a food shortage in their narmal wintering territories - which is also the reason for the sudden

appearance of the waxwings.

Yorkshire. More are likely to be reported further afficid over the next few days. Other sightings over Christ-mas have included smew, a duck from Scandinavia or Russia.

which has been reported in Berkshire, Cheshire, Cleveland, Cornwall, Essex, Leicestershire

Labour to rewrite nurseries curriculum

Early learning: Policy to embrace partnership of public and private sector for under-fives

FRAN ABRAMS Education Correspondent

Labour will offer state money to private nurseries and rewrite the curriculum for the underfives in plans to be announced

next month. The party is already looking at projects which might form the model for its aims to expand nursery education and day care. One involves a private company, set up by a Labour council. which has taken over all day nurseries in a Tory borough.

In a paper to be launched in the New Year, the party will condemn the Government's nursery plans, despite recent reports that the party might not withdraw the £1.10xtvouchers if it came to power after their introduction. It is likely to promise nursery education for all three- and four-year-olds, as well as day care for babies and

Though Labour has not costed its plans, experts have estimated that between £1.1Cbn and £1.04bn per year might be needed to provide part-time nursery education for three

integrated under-fives service. including day care, would cost around £2.7hn per year.

Margaret Hodge, head of the purty's "early years" in-quiry and MP for Barking, said Labour had to recognise that things had changed since Margaret Thatcher first promised nursery education for all in 1972. Part-time care would no longer suffice because far more

mothers now worked, she said.
"We will have to build on the legacy we inherit, and so we would have to look for partnerships with the private and voluntary sector to create these places for children. We have got to be imaginative if we are to provide access to all." she said.

The party's new policy fore-sees an integrated under-fives service, often run by partner-ships of private, public and voluntary organisations. Local authorities would still be responsible for planning and

inspection.

Nurseries might be huilt by private companies, such as supermarkets, in return for

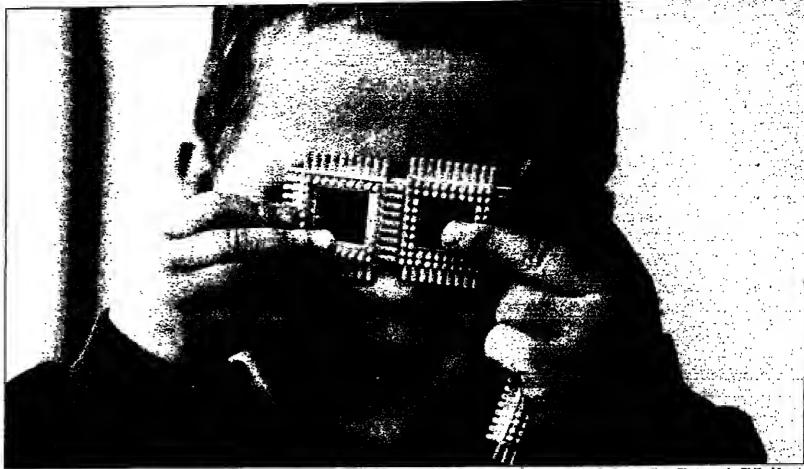
year-olds and full-time school- planning permission for develing for four year-olds. A fully opments, and could be run by a local authority or by a voluntary organisation. Mrs Hodge said there should be flexibility so that authorities in different areas of the country could meet

local needs in their own ways. Labour would also scrap plans drawn up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) for a nurs-ery curriculum which sets down basic targets for levels of numeracy, literacy and general knowledge. Instead, it is examining a

project set up by all major groups representing nursery and childcare organisations to design a new curriculum from birth to the age of eight.

The Early Childhood Education Forum is just finishing a first draft of its plan. Quality and

Diversity. Its authors say the SCAA curriculum is too rigid and could even be damaging. Instead, they propose five foundations, based on active learning, pupil participation and imagination as well as on building a sense of individual-



Child's view: A young member of Barne Hill nursery, in Brent, north London, rum for the council by Childcare Enterprise Photograph: Philip Meech ity and of group membership.

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Council finds childcare makes commercial sense

A socialist council which has gone into business in an attempt to im-prove its murseries could provide a model for Labour's future plans. North Tyneside has set up a private company which has even taken over all the nuseries in the Tory London Borough of Breut, writes Fran Abrams.

Five years ago North Typeside had 95 mursery places for children from deprived backgrounds. Now it has more than 400, half of which are for the needy.

The council began in a small way five years ago, by expanding its two day nurseries and making a charge to parents who could afford to pay for the extra places. Then it expanded

CASE STUDY into after-school care, holiday schemes and a nanny agency, followed by a consultancy ser-

vice for employers on childcare.

A contract to run a nursery for Department of Social Security offices just outside the council's boundary followed, and further work rolled in from as far afield as Ipswich and Glasgow. In 1992 the council decided to set up an independent, nonprofit-making company to run the services, and Childcare

Enterprise Ltd was born. Last year Brent council ad-

and won a long-term contract for

Jackie Doughty, the head of Tyneside and also chief executive of the company, said that plans to work with the private sector must be carefully monitored to ensure that quality is

"The situation that our company is in is that there are cer-tain standards laid down about quality of service and the em-ployment conditions of staff. There aren't lots of hungry shareholders and so its slightly vertised for an organisation to different from some private take on its oursery services. sector arrangements, she said.

Postal union sets deadline

BARRIE CLEMENT

Royal Mail employees are rethree working days lost in British industry through industrial action, according to inter-

nal management estimates. The 38,000 days lost through strikes in 1984-85, often involving unlawful wildcat stoppages, are seen as a symptom of a general breakdown in relations between management and

their employees throughout the

future of the service. In particular, the Royal Mail is accused a deadline of 17 January.
of deliberately delaying the first If the union remains u

Within the last 12 months, the national strike action. Royal Mail has been hit by walkonts all over Britain, with the most most disruptive action hitting services in Scotland, London and the North-East.

the Union of Communication been sparked by fears over the from management over the second post and have issued

If the union remains unsatthat should be sent out later. - tatives are to call for a ballot on

. At the heart of the union's concerns is a fear over the thousands of jobs that could be lost if the second delivery is becomes extinct.



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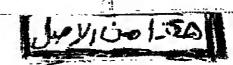
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Turkish elections: The Army is alarmed as ex-detainee's party upsets the Establishment

Pro-Islamic Welfare wins famous victory

HUGH POPE

In one of the more extraordinary upsets in Turkey's 73-year-old republic, a pro-Islamic party overtook the squabbling secubiggest faction in the parliam founded by Kemal Ataturk.

victory as results came in from the republican order.

24 December's general electric The Turkish anned forces 24 December's general electric The Turkish anned forces tions, even though he won with The the times wering guardians of just 21.32 per-cent of the vote Party," said the ilamboyant Mx Erbakan, 69, flushed with sucin the political wilderness. -

the political wilderness. the elections.

The prime minister, Tansu Parliamentary arithmetic will Ciller resigned, though she will stay on as caretaker until President Suleyman Demirel nominates her successor As Mr Erbakan demanded that he be: vision, some of them young militants in turbans shouting "Allah-u-Akbar (God is Great).

But Mr Erbakan needs a parliamentary majority, or 276 deputies to vote for his gov-ernment programme. Mr Demirel said last week he will seek such a premier. The hint was directed at Mrs Ciller of the vote; or Deniz Baykal's Re-True Path Party and Motherland publican People's Party, which Party leader Mesut Yilmaz,

re election. peting parties failed to sur-The army will also be watch-inount a 10 per cent national

Istanbul — Having found a

niche defending the Islamic

vote with two parties in 1970s, Necmettin Erbakan thrived on

brinkmanship, in the terrible Turkish political morass of that decade, writes High Pope. He became deputy prime minister

three times for a total of more than three years.

Although there is now a

hard-working, modernist wing in Mr Erbakan's Wolfare Party, which enabled it to capture

many votes that used to go to

Asked what he would do

with a recent Customs Union

agreement with Europe from 1

over and make an agreement that is not exploitative

weekend fire that killed more

Authorities said 538 people

were confirmed killed, but the toll could rise to 600. Some 250

people were injured.

Residents were outraged by
the scant facilities at the Civil

Hospital in Dahwali, the only government run hospital in the

town 125 miles (200kms) north-

east of New Delhi. Doctors

had to redirect hundreds of in-

jured people to hospitals in

promster. Mr Singh said the remark.

Oil

THE

ounded by Kemal Atatork. Imports and is said to be keen. The veteran Welfare Party that Mrs Iller and Mr Yilmaz leader, Necmettin Erbakan, on the centre-tight patch up yesterday claimed a famous their cighty and unite to save

zealotry and reaction," the Chief of General Staff, Ismail cess after years of being mocked . Hakki Karadayi warned before

not help the establishment. Mrs winning about 135 seats with 19.20 per cent of the vote. Mr Yilmaz won 132 seats with

But that does not make 276 votes, even if Mr Yilmaz can with "that woman" Mrs Ciller.

They would have to form a government with one or both of mier Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party, which won 75 seafs with 14.65 per cent of the

Veteran leader's

shocking rhetoric

many votes that used to go to
the left wing, he immedif appears
to have changed few of his
ideas about taking taxes in
kind, a banking system without
interest rates and the immigrant
advent of an assume character in
a Muslim commonwealth.

ping out of Nate and rejecting

January, the culmination of a radio cheered a "change of 32-year integers that he has orientation towards the Islamic vowed to lear up, Mr Broakan world", Mr Erbekan's first prosaid. "We want to develop posal on election night was to

relations with everyone, but freeze foreign currency in the that agreement was one sided. Central Bank because it had We will call those Westerners signed futures contracts

that is not explorative.

It is hard to fell where Ms reserves.

Erbakan's rictions emissionles. Seeing weeks, if not months, real intentions begin, but of such political instability shivers go down the applies of against the dollar and the stock hearing his ideas about their market dropped sharply.

Blaze survivors

blockade hospital

Dabwali, India (AP) — Out hospital had only 10 beds for a raged at the poor medical treatpopulation of 50,000. The hospital refused to comment ment given survivors of a pital refused to comment.

The blaze had spread swiftly

than 500, thousands of prothrough the plywood building testers sestenday tore down a Many were killed by the stamfrom removing bodies.

The other that folied more than the other than 500, thousands of prothrough the plywood building.

Many were killed by the stampede towards the only working exit. The other exit was locked.

from removing bodies.

Saturday's fire destroyed a Police were investigating Kecommunity ball, where school—wal Kishan Dhamija, the hall's

community ball, where school-children were putting on an end-of-term event for a crowd of negligence. Mr Dhamija ac-about 1,000, including their knowledged the hall was built without proper permits, the

all talk of compromise on

Cyprus.
As neighbouring Tehran

amounting to about a quarter of more than \$100n of

ing closely, having jailed Mr Er-balcan for eight months during its last 1988-83 military take-over and charged him with try-ing to set up an Islamic state. Mr Tabahar was acquitted in 1985. the Kurdish nationalist left-wing party HADEP won only 4.17 per cent of the vote, showper cent of the population, pre-

fer mainstream parties.

The Turkish nationalist "Grey Wolves" of the National Action Party also fell short of the threshold, polling just 8.18 per cent .

"We must find a workable government, without prejue," said Mr Yilmaz yesterday Mrs Ciller and he said he would talk with Mr Erbakan's Islamists if they changed their philosophy."
Mr Erbaken, however, clear

ly hopes that as prime ministerdesignate it is he who will be persuading conservatives in Mr Yilmaz's party to join him.



The twisted wreckage of a train belonging to the Spanish state railway, Renfe, yesterday, after an accident in

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20% OFF selected Debenhams hosiery

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ONETHIRD OFF selected Toddler jackets

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UP TO 50% OFF

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angered by a reported remark by a state minister that such disasters were common in India. neighbouring towns.

Is this a way to run a hospital? asked Smesh Singh, a later denied he made the

without proper permits, the

Statesman newspaper reported

yesterday.
Police said shoddy wiring at

the hall may have caused the fire. They were checking the electrical wiring.

- About 5,000 protesters blocked the removal of 18 bod-

ies from the hospital. The

demonstrators said they were

Children of genocide seek lost innocence

It seems a ridiculously long name for so small a girl: Tumuhawenimana. But there it is marked on a red plastic bracelet around her wrist. She is only six years old but she seems older than that. She sits on the edge of the mattress, listening and looking though she understands little of what we're saving. Not that there's much else for her to do in the hut: there are no toys, no games, no books.

The little girl with the impossibly long name is one of six children being looked after by 15-year-old Veronique. They came to Goma nearly a yearand-a-half ago, part of the human tide which flooded into Zaire as killing and conflict continued in Rwanda. The father of the twin girls and of the little boy - Veronique's nieces and nephew - was killed, she says. by the Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels whom they were fleeing. Soon after their arrival in Kibumba refugee cump. Veronique parents and her two sisters died of cholera.

So now there are six of them living in a tiny shelter made from branches and grass, with as we walk across the black vol-

out the rain. The floor is mud. the door a sodden, ragged blanket. All around them are thousands of similar huts. Kihumba, which holds some

186,000 men, women and chil-

dren, is one of five camps in the Goma area. There are more than a million Rwandans, mostly Hutus, in camps in Zaire's eastern region. This is the biggest concentration of refugees in the world and they show no sign of wanting to go home. Each day only a dozen or two mount the buses which are there to bring them across the border should they wish to go. Most say it is too dangerous, that they will be persecuted or imprisoned by the Tutsis if they go back. Unfortunately, there is growing evidence to justify such claims.

t was introduced to Veronique and her brood by a young man who works in the camp for the Irish aid agency. Goal, He too is a refugee and

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that things in the camps are getting worse. The refugees might have settled into some semblance of a routine but what a miserable and demoralising one it is. They squat amid the lush, green hills, in sight of their homeland a couple of miles across the border, wondering if

ever they will be able to return. Strange, conflicting thoughts rattle around your mind in these camps. At one moment, your heart goes out to these people whose lives have been reduced to a pathetic daily search for food, water and firewood in a country not their own. Then you look at one of these ravaged Hutu faces and you ask yourself: is this one a killer? Did this one wield a machete and cut off the arms of his neighbour's children? Did this one butcher his friend's wife simply because she was a Tutsi?

There were child killers in Rwanda as well as adults. I have seen some of the suspects in de-

tention centres: children as young as seven have been charged with genocide. But I refuse to believe that Veronique or any of her clan are guilty of these crimes. They look too vulnerable, too innocent. But then so did the seven-year-old (ironically called Innocent) whom I met in Rwanda a few months ago: I was told he had helped his parents chop up their neigh-bour's kids.

But they're not all killers. She should be at school, out with her friends discussing clothes and boys. Instead she's bringing up a clatter of kids in a stink-ing but with only half a hag of them for the next two weeks.

"Eve had enough of living like this," she says. "There's not enough for the children to eat here. We might have to go back home next year. But then there's not much for us there either. And I've heard there's killing again in Rwanda,

What sort of 1996 is this fam-David Orr



nber as they wait for the procession during the traditional Christmas march on Bethlehem's Menger Square. This Christmas is the first that Christian Palestinians are celebrating under Palestinian self-rule Photograph: AFP

KwaZulu bloodshed mounts

axes and guns, the raiders at-

tacked at 8am, torching 80

homes and looting 15 others. By

ROBERT BLOCK

On South Africa's scenic south the time they finished shooting coast of KwaZulu-Natal, in the Shobashobane settlement, yesterday begat a Yuletide of

As Shobashohane, a stranghold of President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), woke to a sunny Christmas morning. hundreds of supporters of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi descended. Armed with spears,

IN BRIEF

300 Chechens die

Mnscow — Confirming suspi-

cions of heavy casualties, the Russian commander in Chech-

nya said yesterday that nearly

300 civilians had been killed during more than a week of heavy fighting in the breakaway republic's second-largest city.

Russian troops have kept Gu-

dermes sealed off since Satur-day. The blockade has aroused

the suspicions of even the progovernment Russian media

Several reports have accused the military of trying to hide some

thing, perhaps the scale of the

casualties. One refugee who fled before the blockade said be

passed 30 fresh corpses in his

block alone on his way out of

Kim slams 'traitors'

Seoul -- North Korean leader

Kim Jong II delivered a blis-

tering attack on economic re-

formists and ideological

revisionists yesterday, calling them "traitors" who are jeopardising the country. It was not

clear if the statement fore-

shadowed a policy shift or an

impending purge of potential opponents in the communist

state as it faces possible famine

this winter. A US defence offi-

cial said last week that thou-

sands of people have been

forced to attend mass execu-

tions in the North in an apparent effort to nip potential

dissent in the bud.

Fire kills gorillas

Philadelphia - Smoke that spread through a primate house

after a fire broke out at the

nation's oldest zoo early on

Sunday killed 23 rare gorillas. orang-utans, gibbons and

lemurs. The primates, all en-

dangered species, died apparently of smoke inhalation. Ten others were treated for smoke

dead, and 20 were wounded.
"It's a sick way to spend
Christmas," said police superintendent Jeff Crombout after soldiers and special police units

arrived to restore calm. Yesterday's attack was the third mass killing on KwaZulu-Natal's south coast in 11 days. At least 28 people were slaughtered in the three massacres, sig-

nalling a big jump in political vi-olence in South Africa's most troubled province. The killings have been

and stabbing, at least nine peo-ple. including a baby, were the ANC and Inkatha in the run up to local elections in March. Police suspected that yesterday's raid was aimed at pushing ANC supporters out of the area.

However, the brutal modus operandi of the killers have also raised suspicions that a socalled "third force" alliance of Inkatha extremists and rightwing security officials may be responsible for the bloodshed.

Aristide still the power behind throne

PHIL DAVISON Latin America Correspondent

René Préval, of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas coalition, will take over from the president on ? February after a landslide victory in this munth' elections.

Official results announced over the Christmas weekend howed Mr Préval, a 52-year-old agronomist and former Prime Minister, winning 88 per cent of the December 17 vote. His closest challenger, former national police chief Leon Je-

une, scored only 2.5 percent. Despite Mr Préval's overwhelming victory, the low turnnut of only 28 per cent gave the result an interesting twist, according to residents af the capital, Port-au-Prince. It showed that Mr Aristide, not Mr Preval, remains the most popular man in Haiti and will be seen as the power behind the throne for the next five years.

Had Tiud (Mr Aristide's nickname) been a candidate, there would have been a massive turn-nut," said Jean-Robert, a Port-au-Prince taxi driver. "People were not voting for Préval. They were voting for Lavalas (Waterfall)." When Mr Aristide swept to the presidency in 1990, the turn-out was

Many Haitians believe Mr Aristide, for whom Mr Préval served as Prime Minister in 1991 before the former was ousted in a military coup, deliberately encouraged a low turn-out to send a message to Mr Préval The message: I got you elected but I showed you who controls the Haitian people.

Election observers from the Organisation of American States (OAS) were among those blaming the low turn-out on Mr Aristide, saying he deliberate-ly withheld endorsement of Mr Préval until two days before the election. Mr Aristide's staff and many Haitians responded with disdain, saying many of the OAS team spent the election

observing each other in bars. An OAS media spokesman shocked many by drunkenly lifting the dress of an American newswoman at a post-election party while another OAS observer was thrown out of a ho-

tel bar for drunken behaviour. Mr Preval's first speech as president-elect, in Port-au-Prince on Saturday night, showed the problems be faces. He had to speak by candle light

amid a fnur-hour blackout. Mr Preval's biggest problem. however, will be preventing or dealing with a resurgence of violence once American and other UN forces pull out on 29 February at the end of their peace-keeping mission.



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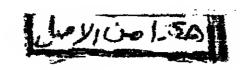


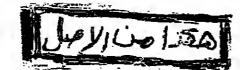
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moments that made the year

When private parts get exposed in public

It has not been a great year for the broadbrush theories of history. A century from now a cursory trawl of the cyberilbrary will not offer many great moments. No walls fell, no new order came mto being, no colossus strode the world stage - even China's ancient puppetmaster, Deng Xiaō Ping, confounded medical science and failed to discover m person whether he had been exercising the Man-date of Heaven. At home, John Major's understated premiership was not topoled by the disappointingly unconvincing challenge by (of all people) his Weish

In the absence of what the BBC habitually describes as "momentous events", 1995 will almost certainly he best remembered for the tragic assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, the voyeuristic pleasures of the OJ trial, the extraordinary spectacle that was Dianarama and the signing of the (as yet untested) Bosnian peace

But if nothing much was served up, that does not mean that nothing much was cooking. For, as the year progressed, one major theme emerged; as the state retreats, how should the new dispensation between private and public, citizen and the mar-

provided by the performance of the privatised utilities. Throughout the year, large payments to senior executives provoked the kind of outcry that suggests the public still helieves they should be run as a public service. Yorkshire Water's lamentable performance in declination in the december entable performance in dealing with the drought was just the most extreme example of how these previously closed utilities were unused to the publie scrutiny that comes with claiming to treat your customers as consumers.

All year, the names of that new hreed of quasi-public servants, the regulators, have been hitting the headlines. Professor Stephen Littlechild went back to the electricity companies and demanded a better price deal for consumers; after what appeared to be a very large error of judgement, Clare Spottiswoode found herself at logger-heads with British Gas over competition in the industry, Oflot's director-general, Peter Davis, ended the year on a low note, subject to suspi-cions about the closeness of his relationship with the company that he was regulating. Overall, the public glare debates and decisions that were once

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regulators or rules to adjudicate upon them - and there the outcomes were fascinating. Some of these has no jurisdiction. Shell, though right about the science of dumping the Brent Spar oil rig in the North Sea, was forced to back down because of the consumer outcry against it, particularly in Germany and the Netherlands. Protestors all but ended the trade in live animals from Britain, aided by the reluctance of ferry companies to invoke the ire of their calf-loving customers. Consumer power, it seemed. could be mobilised to force change. Legislators, too, found themselves responding

to the public thirst for accountability. True, the Scott report on arms sales to Iraq, like the new British Library, has been promised with each turn of the ket, be controlled and regulated?

But some parts of the dispute between the pubseasons and yet the grass has risen, the sun has shone, leaves have fallen, chill winds have blown

did appear. Conservative MPs stood like Canute's courtiers, uncomprehendingly defying the waves of concern over their lobbying and other activities – and got very wet. Nolan is a judge and 1995 saw m'luds become

an important new element in providing checks on the elective dictatorship. A new generation of pro-active judges, led by Lord Justice Taylor and exem-plified by Stephen Sedley, have handed out canings to the overmighty executive in court and in print. Taylor's magisterial and contemptuous repudiation of Michael Howard's speech on sentencing to the Conservative Party conference was a welcome hreak with tradition. Little wonder that the judiciary are now lining up behind a Bill of Rights.

But the question of public and private rights has cut both ways. A small group of moral majoritarians, allied to a newspaper, looked at one stage as though they might derail new legislation on divorce before it was even proposed. Unrepresenta-tive though they were, this group was articulating the sense of unease that many feel about the "breakdown" of traditional structures of responsibility. Less backward-looking, but much more important, were the strictures offered by new

and no report has been forthcoming. But the recommendations of the Nolan committee certainly

Labour (in the person of Shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw) on the anti-social activities of "squeegee merchants", addicts, alcoholics and graf-fiti artists. The talk of halancing rights with responsibilities is attractive, hut it all raised many more questions in 1995 than it answered.

Moving decisively from private into public with devastating effect was the hurt, bitterness and hope of the Princess of Wales. A heroine for the Age of Confessionalism, Diana bared her soul to millions all over the world. No one need ever suffer in silence again. Not when there is a radio phone-in or

a documentary that they can talk to.

We are so morally confused, so frequently, these days, partly because the line between the public and the private is shifting so fast. So much of what we formerly thought were private matters - the grounds we use to justify divorce, the lifestyles of single mothers - have been turned into public and often political issues, while much of what was tra-ditionally dealt with through the public sector now depends on competition, the market and regulation to satisfy citizens who have become consumers. No politics has yet proved completely adept at straddling the new worlds of the public and the private. The first to do so will have won

Devastating Di

At year's end, Britain has two royal families: the old, slow, official one and a freelance competitor, founded by an embittered single mother. Martin Jacques reports

The most riveting TV interview of the year? Princess. Diana, Once again, the Royal Family has been at the centre of public debate. Not so long ago, coverage of royalty amounted to little more than tittle-tattle, court circulars and obsequious commentary on royal tours (not to mention small news stories in the Independent). No more. The state of the Royal Family has become the most important political drama being played out in Britain, Westminster notwithstanding. As we strug-gle to reinvent ourselves as a nation, our most ancient institution, the monarchy, is the metaphor for our times. Far from being an irrelevant soap opera about an anachronistic and aristocratic family, it is a compelling story that touches For more than a decade

Princess Diana has played one of the hig parts: this year she emerged as the star hilling. She was reborn. As we watched that interview, it was hard to recall the shy princess who married the not-so-young prince in 1981. Even that more recent incarnation, the Sloane of Chelsea Harbour Cinh and expensive German cabriolets, was obliged to take a back seat to the New Di, as Tony Blair might describe her. While the Royal Family has failed to reinvent itself. Diana has comprehensively succeeded. In that interview she broke with the claustrophobic constraints of the House of Windsor and the severe limitations of her own background to present a very

different kind of image. New Di is a product of our like so many others, has fought some desperate struggles. They have left their mark:

The most compelling event umphed. She is stronger, more a "democratic" Scandinavian-style monarchy. New Di is not state of the royal marriage. on the world. Which is fortunate, because she has faced a formidable adversary in the past few years.

For what transpired during the interview was that she had fought these dark forces in the permafrost of the Royal Family. From her description, which rang true with every sentence and intonation, she was confronted with a family attitude that dismissed such behaviour as a sign of "weak-ness" and "madness". She was progressively marginalised and isolated. It is difficult to imagine a more inhospitable

style monarchy. New Di is not there yet, but the direction of her thinking is clear. Who would have thought, just two short years ago, that the greatest threat to the Royal Family as we know it would come from the wife of the next king? The ways of the world are more bizarre than the dreams of even the most imaginative

Of course it is possible that the Panorama interview represented the highwater mark of that challenge. Charles against Diana, let alone New Di, is a thoroughly unequal contest. But with Diana banished from environment in which to the royal marriage and royal tackle such private turmoil. circles, the dynamics could It would appear that the prove very different. She will koyal Family is as hackward in become an outsider, cut off

Who would have thought, two years ago, that the greatest threat to the Royal Family would come from the wife of the next king?

Somehow, though, New Di has escaped. She is the epitome of the modern woman: candid about her personal problems, able to converse about the private as well as the public, eager to explore her own identity, happy to juggle with different roles, keen to care, hooked on health, fitness and psycho-babble. She is a product of postfeminism. She is a new kind of royal, the royal for our age. As such she represents a formidahle challenge to the Royal

Family. Poor old Charles. time. She spoke with an extraordinary directness about her post-natal depression and bulimia. Here was a woman who, interview. She suggested that the Royal Family needed to make itself more open and accessible. She has hinted that There are no simple victories she would like to use public in such battles, yet she showed transport and fly scheduled. These are the first stirrings of

its attitude towards psycho-logical disorders as it is towards the modern world. that she was married to the next king and at the very epi-centre of the Royal Family. She will become less special, a media star but little more. This is a plausible scenario. It is the one that the Royal Family

hopes will come true. It is not difficult to imagine what might happen to her under these circumstances. With a good settlement under her designer belt, she might opt for the quiet life, perhaps in harness with a new partner. Alternatively, she may react by growing increasingly strident, more and more heard and less and less listened to.

It is doubtful whether the Royal Household's favoured scenario will actually happen. Diana may soon be divorced from the next king but she will still be the mother of the nextbut-one king. Much as the Royal Family might want to

tralia, she will remain a crucial figure in the royal entourage. The Royal Family's instinct lowards Diana from the beginning of her private difficulties has been to marginalise and exclude. That is why she was branded as a little mad. Then, figures in the Royal Household fought long and hard to undermine her: she called them the Enemy. After the Panorama interview it seemed as if, fimally and belatedly, the Royal Family had been forced to recognise that ostracising was not the best course of actrecognition, allowed back into

London or send her to Aus-

the fold, given a public role. But that was a false reading. It still wants to deal with her by punishment and exclusion. Howelse can one interpret the Queen's letter to Charles and Diana urging divorce? Worse, there is even talk of the Royal Family trying to roll back the years and seeking a return to splendid aristocratic isolation. The Royal Family is not just frightened of Diana, it is frightened of the modern

The underlying problem is not Diana, it is the Royal Family - an institution demonstrahly out of date and increasingly out of touch which exudes anachronism: the crass handling of Diana, the other-worldliness of Charles (graphically portrayed in the Dimbleby programme), the culture and habits, the stiff upper lip and distaste for emotion, the language and accents, the courtiers and the hangers-on. The institution is in desperate need of reform. The only really modern royal is Diana. The Royal Family could listen and learn, use her as a way of modernising. There is no sign of that. Instead, it is set on vindictiveness and revenge. It cannot win. The public will side with Diana and, as the years go by, the posi-tion of the Royal Family will appear increasingly strange and



Mary Bastholm, missing since 1968, was seen with the serial killer. Will Bennett reflects on the mysteries of Cromwell Street

Please tell me: did Fred West kill my sister?

The words of the telegram from his parents telling him that his younger sister. Mary, had gone missing are still engraved on Peter Bastholm's mind 28 years after he

received it.
"It said 'sister Mary missing parents distressed' and that was it," said Mr Bastholm. "It was a week after she disappeared that I heard about it. I remember that it was a Saturday." He remembers, too, that it was a seemingly endless 20-hour flight

from Singapore, where he was serving with the Royal Navy, back to Britain and he will never forget the agonies that his parents went through after his return.

"I felt so powerless, there was nothing that I could do except be there with them," said 51-year-old Mr Bastholm, who works as a bar-

Until the arrest of Frederick and Rosemary West in February 1994, nothing was known about what had happened to Mary, 15. She disappeared after leaving the family home in Gloucester at 7.15pm on 6 January 1968 to catch a bus to visit her boyfriend.

Fear that something dreadful had happened to her was sometimes replaced by a desperate hope that she had decided to go off and start a new life. Eventually both were superseded by a heavy-hearted acceptance that they would

never find out. Mary's mother, Doreen, died aged 73 in 1993, the misery of not knowing what had happened to her daughter unresolved. For some time after she disappeared Doreen never left home, saying: "I want to be here in case Mary comes."

Mr Bastholm said: "It was continual distress for the family, really, but eventually it was something you tended to live with and it

became sort of normal." But when police went to the Wests' home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and the remains of more and more young women were found there, Mr Bastholm knew instinctively that the mystery might finally he solved.

"It was my first reaction, I thought 'here we go' and everything seemed to fall into place," he said. Sadly both for him and for his father, Christian, now 85 and partially hlind, it was not to be that

simple.
The evidence that Frederick West was responsible for Mary's death mounted. A local man called Vincent Oakes came forward to say

that he had seen someone he now which West confessed to 11 mur- women found at Cromwell Street recognised as West with Mary several times shortly hefore her

West had been a regular visitor to the café where Mary worked as The knowledge of

what happened to most of the victims has not helped

a waitress and he told Janet Leach, who attended scores of his rambling interviews with police as an impartial observer, that Mary was huried

ders and told detectives where the remains were huried, he never admitted to killing Mary. No one has ever been charged with her murder and her family are now left

The knowledge of what hap-pened to most of the Wests' victims has not helped. During the trial of Rosemary West, who was convicted in November of 10 murders, it was revealed that most of the Wests' victims were bound, gagged and sex-ually abused before being killed and

Mr Bastholm said: "It has not made it any better because it has brought it all hack again. Years do heal wounds, but this does make you start to realise what happened

Coping with the fact that the

dismembered.

spent their last days alone and terrified in a tiny cellar, unable to cry out and unable to resist, has been desperately hard for all the victims' families.

But at least the relatives of those whose remains were found had the small consolation of being able to bury them, the funeral and the grave both providing focal points for grief and a feeling that at last

they had been laid to rest.

Mr Bastholm, his wife, Denise, and his father, who now lives in an old people's home, do not even have that to cling to and are having to come to terms with the fact that she will never he found.

where she is huried, I am sure that she is buried at one of the sites West used, and it is obviously some-

"It's very difficult not knowing

Mr Bastholm.

Mary was killed the year before Frederick West met Rosemary but, despite this, the Bastholm family has appealed to her to tell them anything she knows about where she might be huried. So far they have had no response from Durham Prison, where she is serving 10 life sentences.

The last hope that they might he able to give Mary a decent hurial almost certainly died with Frederick West, who hanged himself in his prison cell on New Year's Day 1995, taking so many of his secrets with him.

The Bastholm family's dilemma has been left unresolved by Rosemary West's trial and they feel cheated by her husband's death. For them the West case will never be over.



But in those interviews, during





Calm followed the Kobe earthquake. But anger is brewing in the makeshift 'Tent Village', says Richard Lloyd Parry

The city with a broken heart

Frs Kawamura, the notary's gaman are showing. Suicide and mental illness are on the indissident and the park in which she lives does not look much like a refugee camp, either. Spaced at decent intervals, between the swings and the children's sondpit, are 40 pre-fabricated huis, with a kitchen block, bath house and open-air stage. Mrs Kawamura sits in the headquarters of "Tent Village", beside fedding tables bearing We hesitated to ask for anynotice hourds, phones, a fax njachine and a giant television.

The whole thing resembles nothing so much as a well organised archaeological dig. or a summer camp run by a wholesome Christian youth group. But, to the Kobe city authoriand 450 people converged on ties. Mrs Kawamura and her the little park, sleeping in neighbours are outlaws, visible improvised tents and cars, with symptoms of an anger that has been all but forgotten in Kobe's no water and power and very little food. miraculous recovery from the

earthquake which devastated it One of the most remarkable things about the disaster was the calm that followed it. Even in the chaotic aftermath, with 3000,000 homeless refugees surviving on inadequate supplies. looting was virtually unknown. Members of the local vakuza erime syndicates were pictured handing out rice halls to evacrequested toilets, water, food, uces. Entire families lived for But instead of getting more, we months head-to-toe with their got less and less." neighbours in schools, gymnasiums and parks. The Japanese quality of garnan - uncomplain-

But, 10 months later, the consequences of sublimating Meanwhile, the city unveited a ution and have become breed-roads and redevelop the so much suffering in compliant gleaming "Phoenix Plan" for ing grounds for alienation and areas, and now they can."

ing self-restraint - seemed to

have prevented a physical disas-ter from jurning into a social

crease. Legal problems, caused by the massive destruction of property, are proliferating. And, as the winter tightens its grip, there is smouldering resentment of the city govern-ment and its handling of the disaster. "We were so polite, so obedient," says Mrs Kawamura.

thing. We forgot to insist on our Mrs Kawamura's struggle began immediately after the earthquake. No one died in her apartment huilding situated in a modest, low-rent quarter close to the main railway sta-tion. But it was uninhabitable,

There was also another problem. Despite a seeming lack of any preparations for the disaster, the city had allocated certain parks and recreation spaces as official evacuation areas. "This wasn't one of the designated areas," says Mrs Kawamura, "It wasn'i until three days after the earthquake that we got food. Every day we

Eventually, the Japanese Self-Defence Forces raised sturdier tents for the park-dwellers. Those who could moved to hotels or the homes of relatives: those who remained organised the park into a Japanese village in miniature.

the ruined areas would be levelled and rebuilt in earthquakeresistant materials and the 60,000 remaining refugees would be relocated in tempo-

rary housing.
The official refugee houses are rent-free, but have none of the homeliness of the spontaneous tent villages - rows of grim, identical prefabs, beyond the mountains, miles out of Kobe and with inadequate transport links. Many of the refugees were glad to move there, but a minority refused. In August, the city cut off aid to the makeshift evacuation centres. Some 1,800 people, including Mrs Kawamura, stubbornly remain in illegal occupation of

the parks and public huildings.
If the temporary houses were nearer, we might move, she says. "Many of the people here work in the port or the market, and it would be impossible for them to get to work on time. Some of them are old and they want to be near their hospitals and clinics. Some of us iust don't want to leave here hecause this is our community. I don't think this is egotism. We just want to choose where we

The city officials insist that the land chosen for the houses was the nearest available publie land of sufficient size. They cite the byzantine legal difficulties in drawing up recon-struction plans on which every apartment owner in a ruined block, for instance, can agree,

But the temporary housing areas are an unsatisfactory sol-

the reconstruction of Kobe: despair. At least 25 of their occupants have committed suicide, and there have been even more "lonely deaths" - elderly people, bereaved or separated by the carthquake from family and friends, who have died alone and remained unnoticed for days or weeks. The burden of suffering from the beginning bas fallen on the poor, the old and the immigrant communities - Koreans and Thais, many of them second-generation who clustered in the vulnerable wooden areas. Of the dead, 31 per cent were aged over 70 and a full half-nearly 3.000 people - were over 60. In the Kobe area as a whole, one in 400 of the general population died; if you were a Korean in the worst-

> killed increased to one in 150. Apart from being poor, they were politically voiceless and the communities (bey occupied - often old wooden houses on small plots, handed down from generation to generation - were an anachronism in bustling Kobe. With a little cynicism it is possible to see their demise as a silver lining to the economists and city planners of the ambitious city.

"At least in the school gymnasiums people had some space above their heads, at least they were with people they knew and who knew them," says Michio Sakai, a former journalist and now a professor at Kohe University. "The old tered now, and it almost looks deliberate; for years they've been wanting to widen the roads and redevelop the old



The day the Land of the Free lost its innocence

the great American heartland. inside the building only minand the split second it took a utes beforehand. colossal truck homb to explode. Eighl months on, the and Terry Nichols, old army half-forgotten, an outrage amid so many other outrages, buried by the unceasing forrent of trivia. trash and tragedy that modern America seems to be. And yet, as much if not more than any other single event of recent years, it has changed the way in which the

country books at itself.
In the most devastating act of terrorism ever on American soil. 169 people were killed when the vellow Ryder truck containing a ton of primitive explosive detenated outside the Alfred P Murrah federal office building in downtown Oklahima City at 9am on 19 April, ripping half the structure away and collapsing its reinforced concrete and steel girders as if they were a card eastle. A score of the victims were toddlers and young chil-

Two men, Timothy McVeigh with the crime, and both face the death penalty if convicted. Since that April day, the star of Newt Gingrich, the Speaker in the House of Representatives, has waxed and waned. the US Air Force pilot Captain Scott O'Grady became a national hero when he was rescued by the US Marines after his plane was shot down over Bosnia, Divine Brown and countless others have enjoyed Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame. Louis Farrakhan had his march, General Colin Powell decided not to enter the 1996 presidential race and, of course, OJ Simpson was found not guilty. Not one of these events, however, told America as much about itself as Oklahuma City and its

In the shock of tragedy, the

innocence. This, opined the columnists and leader writers. was the moment when a nation long the target of terrorists realised it was a breeder of terin random acts against their fellow citizens. And, as the investigation into the Okla-homa City bombing pro-ceeded, it laid bare another America, previously only halfsuspected, a submerged archipelago of far-right militias and hate groups, some of them trained and organised as small militias, united by paranoia and a loathing of the (ederal government and the agencies

that enforce its power.

This, apparently, was the mindset of Timothy McVeigh. among the more disconcerting anti-heroes of recent times.

It seems so long ago now, dren, delivered by their partical at its best and that bright April morning in cuts to a childcare centre. The Oklahoma City bombing forced America to confront a new cades preventing cars from worst. No one who was there enemy within. Rupert Cornwell reports

> instant assessment was unani-mous: America had lost its intelligent young man of 27, case. How was it that a pleasant, authorities' handling of the witnesses say they saw with who had served with distinction in the Gulf war before leaving the US Army, could turn into an embittered drifter and then plotter of a deliberrorists as well - and terrorists at a slaughter of the innocent? revenge against innocent who were prepared to indulge Quite possibly, the Okla-

> > another 19 April at Waco,

The FBI operation at Waco had been directed by agents hased in the Alfred Murrah building. But disgust is one thing. A cold-blooded act of

It laid bare another America, a submerged archipelago of far-right militias and hate groups

homa City tragedy is a linear descendant of the one on Much in the case remainder. Texas, two years earlier, when 80 Branch Davidians died as federal agents stormed David Koresh's compound. McVeigh had visited the Waco site, and had been disgusted by the John Doc No 2 the thick-

Much in the case remains unanswered. Only McVeigh and Nichols have been charged, yet police have not expressly ruled out the possi-

hility of a wider plot. What, for

instance, of the mysterious

McVeigh in several places before the bombing and whose drawing the FBI released 24 hours after the bombing? No John Doe No 2 has since been captured. Did he exist? If so, how has he eluded the biggest manhunt America has seen in decades? If not, how did the

Only the trial will reveal whether McVeigh and Nichols are guilty and, if so, their motives for committing the crime - and to what extent the botched 1993 assault in Waco was a factor. But both the date and venue of the trial are uncertain. Proceedings may not now begin until autumn

authorities come to helieve he

Inevitably, Oklahoma City's repercussions have reached

OJ Simpson's great vanishing act

Having feasted on the spectacle of the sporting hero in court, America now

seems inclined to treat him like so much cold turkey, writes Tim Cornwell

House on Pennsylvania community, the unaffected Avenue, and tighter security Midwestern solidarity and around federal buildings across the country. More subtly, President Clinton's powerful, afterwards as the death toll empathetic leadership at a moment of national supreme grief began his political recov-ery from the electoral disaster of November 1994. After their stunning capture of hoth houses of Congress, the Republicans found themselves blamed, however unfairly, for the intemperate anti-government rhetoric of the party's far right and its radio talkshowhost soulmates - rhetoric, critics said, which in the case of Oklahoma City had been taken only too literally. In that sense the bombing, however unfairly. reinforced the public impres-sion of the Republicans as peo-

ple who go too far, a perception which Mr Clinton will

exploit to the utmost in his re-

election campaign.
Politics aside, Oklahoma

climbed and bodies were pulled

under floodlights from the But the reaction had its less nolifting side. Take Ibrahim Ahmad, an Oklahoma City computer technician, whose misfortune it was to leave that day to visit relatives in Jordan. He was arrested and detained, his name was released to the media and his family harassed, even though he had nothing to do with the crime. His misfortune was to have been of Arab extraction, near the scene of an outrage which everyone initially and automatically blamed on - to use CNN's revealing phrase -"men of Middle Eastern ori-

gin". The America of the Salem witches and McCarthy-

decency that shone through

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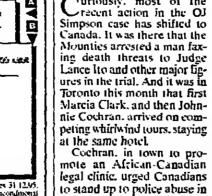
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A Times

1 Fout

the name of justice administered fairly for all. Clark, meanwhile, was billed as the world's most recognisable prosecutor, but in a lacklustre

> One audience member took a microphone and asked her: lic sight. As a gay woman of the 1990s. I want to know, where's the short skirt and high heels?" Clark, wearing a black trouser suit, was completely silenced by this apparent reference to drunk on the floor of his bedher as a lesbian sex object.

Curiously, most of the rumour that she was dating the recent action in the OJ assistant prosecutor Christopher Darden were true, she said elliptically: "I'm in Toronto alone,

Barely three months after an estimated 100 million Americans watched the jury deliver its not guilty verdict, an extraordinary quiet reigns on the OJ Simpson front. The radio station that hired Kato Kaelin, the vacuous Simpson house guest and one-time softporn star, as a talkshow host, is now doing its best to get his dreary meanderings off the

America's racial talkingshop has moved on to the Reverend Louis Farrakhan and his Million Man March, speech she seemed to be sav- and presidential non-candidate Colin Powell. OJ is alive ing her hest for the book that in the world of the supermarshe has sold for a reported ket tabloids: elsewhere he has all but disappeared from pub-

Blaring from the front page of the National Enquirer's Christmas edition is the revelation from a close family source that OJ was found dead room with an empty bottle of Asked later if the delicious tranquiflisers beside him, trial in the wrongful death world has not materialised;

According to the Globe, he was planning to snatch his two young children by his murdered wife. Sydney and Justin, from the custody of their grandparents.

Time magazine, by contrast, named Newt Gingrich as Man of the Year, and gave Johnnie Cochran an honourable men-Three months after the not

silence reigns tion alongside the new tech-nology guru Bill Gates as one of four people who shaped the events of 1995. But OJ himself rated hardly a paragraph. Having feasted on Simpson for most of the year, the country temporarily seems

much cold turkey. The second season of the Simpson soap opera, the civil

inclined to treat him like so

suit brought against Simpson by the families of Nicole Simpson and the waiter Ronald Goldman, is currently advertised for April 1996. The court case promises a thor-ough grilling for OJ and some of his seedier friends, in a courtroom where there is no

protection of the right to silence. Yet the case may not even he televised. There was a flicker of interest this month when Panla Barbieri, the OJ ex-girlfriend who posed for glossy maga-zines with very little on, was guilty verdict an called to give preliminary tesextraordinary timony in the case. Barbieri said that at 7am on the day of the murders she left a "Dear

John" message on OJ's answering machine, telling him she no longer wanted to OJ himself came to court to watch, and there was a rare glimpse of him leaving through a parking fot. But his own lips have been sealed. apparently on the advice of his attorneys, pending trial.

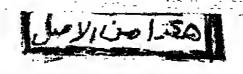
The much talked of "infomercial" for Simpson to hroadcast his innocence to the

major US publishers, it is said, bave even proved queasy about a new OJ book. There is much speculation about just how much of OJ's personal fortune, once estimated at \$10m. is left. The tabloids agree on one point: that Sydney Simpson, OJ's 10-year-old daughter by Nicole, is shunning her father. The National Enquirer recommends placing Simpson on a suicide watch.

In 1921 Fatty Arbuckle, a celebrated actor who played greedy fat men alongside the Keystone Cops and Charlie Chaplin, was found innocent, but widely assumed to be guilty, in the killing of a Hollywood starlet.

His films were banned, his career ruined and though he found work as a director under the pseudonym "Will B Good", he died in obscurity 10 years later. The American public is ardent in its hero worship and quite as ruthless in destroying its idols in any walk of life," Arbuckle observed. "It elevates a man more quickly than any nation





Emot abort

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Why didn't she turn back?

Did 'summit fever' kill Alison Hargreaves on K2? Steve Boggan heard her fellow mountaineers give conflicting accounts of what led her to her fate

When Affson Hargreaves: for the 10-day trek to serious and discarded them down the went missing on K2 in ice and rock it was to this town.

August, there was a general and a hotel called the K2 feeling that she would emerge, Motel, that the survivors of battered and frozen, after a that terrible day would return was to be contradicted. First brease battle against the elements to the message to the message to the contradicted them down the mountain. brave battle against the ele-ments. After her conquest of Everest, unaided and without oxygen, that is what we had come to expect of the tough mother-of-two. She would be found safe and a new chapter would be written in her remark-

When, therefore, five days after she went missing the man who organised her expedition said: "Face it. She isn't coming back," there was a real and

deep national sense of shock. The search switched away from the bodies of Alison and the six other climbers who died on the world's second highest peak, and focused instead on the minutiae of their loss. The centre for this search

was not the mountain itself, but sure it was hers. a dusty one-horse fown named Skardu in the footbills of the Karakoram mountain range in northern Pakistan, at 8,000 feet climbers before they head off plucked climbers from the ice

with the answers to the questions the world was asking.
There bad already been

rumours from the people who organised the climb and from other climbers using satellite phones that the weather had been bad, too bad - and that perhaps Alison should not have made the attempt.

First off the mountain, after

a week, were Lorenzo Ortas and Pepe Garces, who were airlifted to safety with severe frostbite. In a frenzy of media activity, sometimes speaking through cracked and bleeding lips, they confirmed that Alison was dead. They had seen herclothes scattered down the mountain. Across a glacier they had seen a body. They were

They defended her decision to climb. They said the weather had been good, but deterio-rated within minutes into a the last staging post for vicious 100mph blizzard that

Captain Fawad Khan, the expedition's army liaison officer, said: "It was suicidal to climb and I told her so." Then another Spaniard, John Lazkano, who had earlier climbed with Lorenzo Ortiz, one of those who died, said: "I was at Concordia, below base camp. The mountain was covered in cloud above Camp 2. I would not have climbed. The problem

Scott Fischer, an American who reached the summit of nearby Broad Peak at lunchtime on 13 August, said: "When we were coming down, the wind was coming np incredibly strongly and it was bitterly cold. We could see the people on K2 through our spotter scope and we knew they were going to be in trouble. I couldn't understand why they weren't turning

back, because even if they made

was that there were many

people pushing each other for the summit and they felt a false

sense of safety in numbers."

the summit, they would have to come down in darkness." The definitive version took almost two weeks to arrive back, in the form of Peter Hil-

lary, son of Sir Edmund Hillary, the joint-first man to climb Everest. He stopped his climb and turned back as conditions worsened on the mountain. Quite simply, he said, those who went on were suffering from "summit fever".

There was a hizarre kind of chemistry in that group that meant they were going for the summit no matter what. Alison had shouted down to me, Come on up. Use the red rope. Jeff Lakes [one of the climbers who died decided to go for it, but I just sat there and looked at these dots ahead on the traverse. I was amazed, because Alison was calling down as cloud drifted across ber face. I could

only see her intermittently."
When he reached Base
Camp at 22,000 feet at 7.30pm and was told the other climbers bad reached the summit an bour earlier, he recalled saying: was, then most of those who "Ob, my God." He added: climbed with her believe it When you are on a summit

over 8,000 metres and it's dark. it's like being in space with no way back. I knew they were in for a bad time. They would either die or bivouac up there and lose their legs to the cold."

Some of the climbers who came back blamed Alison's fierce determination for driving the others to their deaths. "No one wanted to be the first to give up," said Matt Comeskey. a New Zealander who survived.

Since her death, recordings have come to light which show that Alison had become disillusioned with climbing and was considering stopping. There have been claims that her mar-riage to Jim Ballard was in difficulties. However the one common strand in interviews with those who knew her, who shared hardships and triumphs on mountains and in freezing tents, was their astonishment at the amount of time Alison spent talking about ber children. Tom. six, and Kate, four, If she was thinking of giving up climbing, and the impression is that she

would have been for them.



Emotion, abortion and tragedy

The brief life of Siamese twins crystallised a debate over the sanctity of life, says Polly Toynbee

this year, although the princi-ples of abortion and embryoi-Those of us who strongly sup-ogy have long been entreached. Port abortion on demand do so in law. A number of events and on the grounds that the cases involving unborn babies mother's right over her body crystallised into a stark argu- supersedes the putative child's ment between two pressmen: Dominic Lawson, now editor of the Sunday Telegraph, and Ian Hargreaves, former editor of this newspaper. Both fathered babies suffering severe abnormalities. They approached the calamity in quite different ways.

This would have been simply a private family matter, no more than a sad human interest story, had Lawson not turned the birth of his Down's syndrome daughter into a political issue. He turned the moving description of his experience into an emotional tirade against mod-ern screening, with its con-comitant offer of abortion to parents of abnormal foctuses who choose it. He called it "half-baked eugenics", and compared this to Chinese infanticide and Hitler's extermina-

tion of the mentally deficient. He described how he and his deeply Catholic wife, Rosa Monckton, had decided not to opt for a screening test: since they would have rejected abor-tion anyway, there was not much point. After the birth one or two people unwisely asked if they had taken the tests. "My wife says she thinks it will be difficult to remain friends with such people, he wrote, and deplored the state-sponsored annihilation of viable sentient foetuses". His

of viable sentient foetuses. His article, originally in the Speciator, received accolades in the Daily Mull and Daily Telegraph. In the other corner, by grotesque coincidence, Ian Hargreaves and his wife, Adele Riakehorough a Partiet mine. Blakeborough, a Baptist minister, found themselves in a similar predicament. They had decided to have the tests. They revealed a yet more severe abnormality in their unborn of advocating abortion strongly child: Patau's syndrome. Doctors told them that were their daughter to be born she would probably not survive longer than a mouth. They opted for abortion. Hargreaves also wrote a long and moving account of their experience, in the Sunday Telegraph. Gently, he took issue with Lawson: "In attacking doctors and polideians, I felt you were also making a moral judgement on parents who have faced similar choices and made

a different decision." Lawson's anti-abortion arguments were, as one would expect, some of the most cogent and rational to be expressed in what is usually a sentimental and emotional approach to the subject by people of his per-suasion. He made mincemeat of the argument that suggests it any handicapped person. But to bring them into the world are because he has a virtually reli-different issues.

It seemed like a time warp: gious belief in the right of that suddenly the ethics of aborchild to be born, he puts that tion were back on the agenda above the right of parents not

> Outsiders mainly stood by on the sidelines. There was such a strong sense in Lawson's argument of rationalising tragedy, looking for good in the face of calamity. He wrote of his love for his baby, his happiness at her existence. Others shook their heads and thought of the tronbles ahead, in adolescence and adulthood. (Though for the bet-ter-off, the dreadful dilemmas of caring for the handicapped later in life are less pressing.) The other event that raised

these issues was the birth of Siamese twins to Melanie and Brian Astbury. Shortly before the birth, they sold their story exclusively to the Daily Mail, which hailed them as heroes for carrying through a pregnancy fraught with danger and almost certain tragedy.

When I talked to their obstetrician, I gained the impression that they had not had the true dimensions of what faced them spelt out clearly and forcefully enough. I asked the doctor if he would urge his wife to continue with the pregnancy in these circumstances: he said he would encourage her to have a termi-nation. Had he said this to the Astburys? No.

I wrote an article expressing

concern that often doctors and nurses give neutral information, instead of stressing the hard-ships ahead in these situations. I was deluged with angry letters from the anti-abortion lobby, and Lynda Lee-Potter, defending the Mail's exclusive, launched her own offensive, twice. I also had many letters from medical staff confirming that they were intimidated out enough, for fear of the wrath of

Catholic colleagues. Tragically the Astbury twins. joined at the abdomen and with tangled internal organs, died a while later of a sudden infection, one 20 minutes before the other, having been photographed exclusively in the Mail. A brief article confirmed that the Astburys "had no regrets" and then the Astburys were forgotten.

For as long as the argument continues, there is a danger that many parents will be per-suaded, in a sentimental flurry. of determination, to carry on with pregnancies of handi-capped children, without understanding quite what this will do to their lives later. Some handicapped groups regard this as some kind of genocide, but it is nothing of the part. Theatis somehow better for the child not to be born, since it is always better to be than not to be -ask







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The sacrifice we should never forget

Could we fall silent in remembrance? Not exactly. But **Paul Vallely** found an inner quiet

It has been a year of remembering. Or of attempting to. It was 50 years since the end of World War Two and no one was quite sure whether modern Britain was up to the task of paying dignified respects.

Would the younger generation

write the whole thing off as history? In an attempt to forestall that, every secondary school in England was sent a government pack on VE Day and the Holocaust Educational Trust. a privately funded body, supplied every comprehensive with a version of the film Schindler's List.

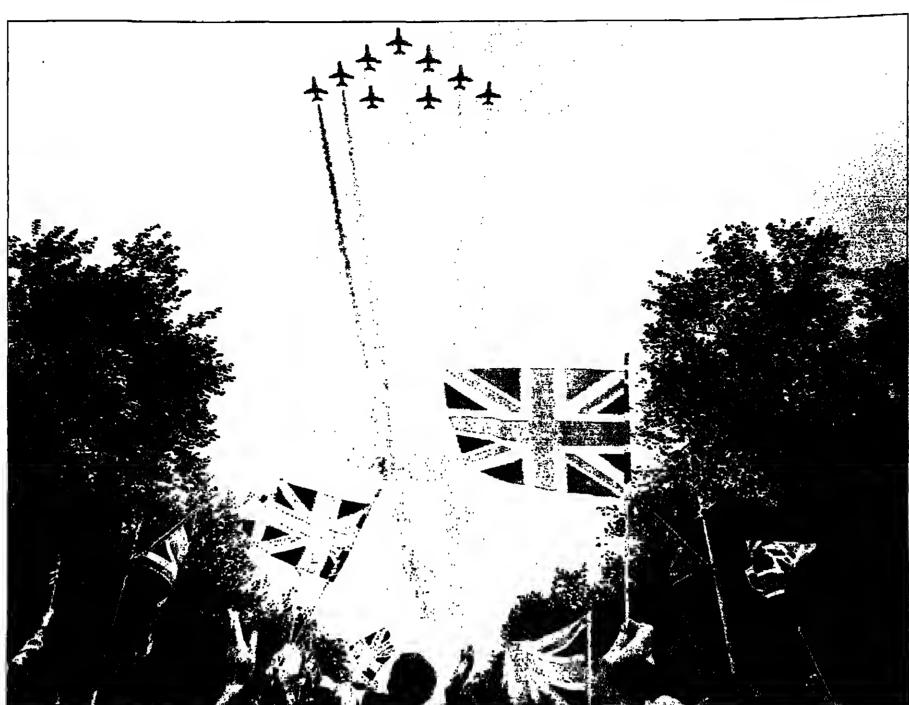
In the event, pupils, sent out to interview their grandparents, were strangely moved by the experience.
It had been touch and go. The year

before, the commemoration of D-Day was dogged by rows between those who wanted to mourn and those who wanted to celebrate. The Government did its best to misjudge the mood with the VE Day weekend, with plans for a concert at Wemhiey with Vera Lynn; a Portsmouth event called "Brylcreem, bullets and bunting"; and a chain of beacons being lit by the Queen in Hyde Park.

But in the end it was all rather different. A hush descended upon the nation in the two minutes before the Queen put the torch to the fire of remembrance. That evening in May, guests at smart dinner parties in Islington, climbers on Dartmoor's granite Haytor Rock, hus drivers in Bristol, bingo-players in Glasgow and the crowd at Blackburn Rovers' Ewood Park football ground all fell

It was as if, for one moment, the entire nation bowed its head as it remembered the sacrifice made by the fathers and grandfathers of those who survived.

It was an instant plucked from the rush of modern life in which something more enduring could be glimpsed. Those who could not recollect none the less held the present in abeyance - for that moment - in homage to those who were unable to savour our brave new world.



Flypast for victory: fears that a younger generation would feel nothing but indifference 50 years after VE Day were not borne out

By contrast, VJ Day in August, to mark the 50th anniversary of victory over Japan, was a time for those who could not forget. The memorial to the end of the war in the Far East was a particularly difficult time for former soners of war because of the menfal and physical abuse they suffered at the hands of a nation which, unlike the Germans, refused to make a proper apology. In the Japanese they still had an enemy; the rest of us could only look on silently, in uncomprehending solidarity with their pain.

There were those, of course, for wbom all this was not enough. The British Legion tried to revive the custom of marking two minutes' silence on the eleventh bour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month - the anniversary of the armistice that brought the end of the First World

It was a custom which fell in desuetude when the Second World War began. The attempt to revive it provoked a mixed response, although novel about that war won the Booker prize, evidence of its enduring fascination for us.

Hopes that Britain would fall into a respectful silence went unfulfilled. The BBC carried on broadcasting. Many shops and businesses that had pledged to cease trading for two minutes forgot. When one cab driver

tried to stop near Oxford Circus, other cabbies blasted their horns. Yet in many parts of the country

espect, which those who took part will recall. In Wiltshire, the Prince of Wales, who was riding out with the Beaufort Hunt, brought his horse to a standstill to pay his tribute with 300 other riders. At the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, Christmas tree lights and fountains were switched off and thousands of

there was a moment of quiet and shoppers stood still at 11am.

A modern vision of heaven and hell

Any society needs an enemy, and while Brussels, the Bosnian Serbs and foreigners at large did a decent job for many people, 1995 was the year when drugs became Public Enemy No 1. The face of Leah Betts beamed out from hoardings next to the single word "sorted" (in the language of the rave, it meant she had enough drugs). Leah Betts was the sacrificial lamb who died, the "little ship", in her father's pathetic words, wrecked by violent seas.

But every society also needs a god, a heaven and a promised land, and the odd thing about this year was that drugs fulfilled those roles, too. Drugs meant hope of health, of longer life, of freedom from pain. Against such diseases as Aids, cancer, multiple sclerosis, drugs offered hope of victory. And this was a year in which advances were made in combating all those diseases.

What is alarming is how we are able to hold two such divergent views of drugs in our minds. It is like having clearly defined concepts of heaven and hell - but only one word for

This year has brought home to us the degree to which drugs have permeated teenage culture. Successive reports showed how, for example, cannabis use has doubled in 10 years and the number of cannabis users convicted has nearly tripled; how ddicts of hard drugs have ncreased by 20 per cent in a year. One survey suggested that in the near future it will be those adolescents that decline to buy drugs who will be considered deviant. The trend was unmistakable

and posed serious questions for every parent - the most urgent being: how to protect our children? Besides keeping them locked up 24 hours a day, there vere no obvious answers. Since Jim Callaghan's Dangerous Drugs Act of 1971, governments have pursued the goal of suppressing all dangerous drugs through policing, propaganda and official rhetoric. This year's statistics prove that the policy has failed. Is it not time to try something new?

regard to cannabis, Tony Blair a dealer or by a doctor - but in

Drugs are both demons and wonder cures. Why are we so confused by them today? **Peter Popham**

reports obliged her to shut up. We have a stunning ability to keep our feelings about drugs locked in hermetically scaled containers in our brains. In an article earlier this month in the Sun, the television comic Joe Long-thorne "sensationally confessed" to rampant abuse of heroin, LSD, Ecstasy and the tranquilliser Temazepam. His

biographer recounted all the coke-laced joints, the pills and booze the comedian had got through. Casually, it was also mentioned that Longthorne had "recently won a six-year battle against a rare form of blood cancer" in the treatment of which presumably drugs had played a significant role. Yet despite the powerful urge to keep good and evil drugs cor-ralled apart, this year has seen increasing signs of leaching between the two. Administered by a doctor, Temazepam is a common tranquilliser, bought on the streets of Glasgow, "jelfies" were blamed for leading to memory loss, blackouts, vio-lent behaviour and "numerous deaths". The two substances are the same. Cannabis, Clare Short discovered, is far too evil to be discussed in the House of Commons, but many multiple sclerosis sufferers have found it relieves their symptoms. A former Army captain from Tun-bridge Wells, diagnosed as having MS in 1989, said he smoked it every day. "Cannabis is not a cure," he said, "it's a manage-

ment tool which helps to improve my quality of life." We demand to draw a line, to be told plainly when drugs are evil and when they are good. When, in September, Clare Perhaps the simplest test is

1995, even this test has proved fallible. One of their number, Dr Clive Froggatt, an architect of the NHS reforms, was convicted of supplying heroin illegally, and confessed to being a junkie himself. After Leah Betts's collapse, a reporter on a national paper went to a rave; the Ecstasy-popping ravers he interviewed turned out to be doctors,

We deserve to be confused: our simple-mindedness invites it. Breathlessly, the press reports the success of a "growth hormone wonder drug" in giv-ing a man aged 60 the "stamina, energy and sex drive" of a 30year-old. But when an 18-yearold desires a far more modest alteration of reality - to stay awake all night, feeling good -

we cannot condemn too fast. What is being played out is the modern form of the ancient struggle between the genera-tions. Since the mid-Sixties teenagers have identified themselves by the drugs they prefer it is one of the ways in which they slither out of their elders' embrace. Inevitably, it incurs adults' fear and anger, for that is part of the game.

Meanwhile, the middle-aged have their own game to play:

keeping the woes of mortality at bay as long as possible. And as the middle-aged control the media, it is no surprise which impulse gets the better press. It is time we, and our politicians in particular, grew up. The reason we fear for our children's lives is not because they are taking drugs per se, but because the quality of the drugs they are taking is uncontrolled. God knows what they are ingesting. Leah Betts died not from Ecstasy but from an overdose of water, indirectly, she died from a paucity of information. We need to recognise that we

are living not in a world of good and evil drugs but in an environment saturated by chemicals of every description. Dr Hamish Cameron, head of medical affairs for the drug mannfacturer Zeneca, says: "There is no such thing as a safe drug." Recognising that truth, our role should be to act as sen-When, in September, Clare Perhaps the simplest test is sitive guides. That way many Short posed that question with whether they are dispensed by other "little ships" may be

It was the year that childhood as we thought we knew it finally died. But can we be so sure?

The Rev Peter Foster rem-embers how, overnight, the children vanished from the streets of Eastham, on Merseyside, after Robert Gee, 12, and Paul Barker, 13, were victims of a knife attack while fishing at a local pond. "There was such a terrific sense of shock," recalls Mr Foster, "the streets emptied." He led the joint funeral for the boys - who had been best friends for most of their short lives.

Six months after the murders, the children's parents face an agonising start to the new year. That the flow of donations to a memorial appeal which now exceeds £20,000 continues to be steady suggests their neighbours have not forgotten their pain or loss.

"The children are out again," says Mr Foster. "Bnt when you speak to their parents you realise that beneath the surface

the fear is still there." As 500 people filed into St David's United Reform Church for the boys' funeral in July, police were already hunting the killer of Sophie Hook, 7, who was snatched from a tent in her aunt and uncle's garden in Llandudno, North Wales. Sophie, who was strangled, was abducted just a day after the killings on Merseyside.

Camping and fishing: two innocent childhood pursuits vhose very ordinariness seemed to imbue public outrage at the murders with a sense of heinous violation. The summer of 1995 will go down in the record books for its high temperatures. But for many it will be the time when the death of childhood was finally confirmed.

Four other children met violent deaths that summer. In August, Louise Sellars, 15. was strangled on farmland near Wigan, Greater Manchester. and the body of Darren Fawns was discovered on a golf course near Loch Neagh in Northern Ireland. The following month. Rachel Lean was stabbed to death near her home in Buxton. Norfolk, and Naomi Smith, 15, was found with her throat cut in a park 100 yards from her home in Nuncaton, Warwickshire. Naomi had gone out returned.

The number of children killed by strangers in 1995 will probahly not exceed previous years. At six or seven a year it is still, thankfully, a rare crime. But Home Office statistics do nothing to comfort parents. Surveys show that the majority agree with Mr Foster that his own childhood was safer than



that of his own three children. Last year a MORI survey found that more than 90 per cent nf parents believed their children would see more crime and violence than they had.

Parents rate abductinn and assault as their greatest fear for their children. And there are warnings that parental anxiety is seriously restricting children's lives. According to a Policy Studies Institute survey, 80 per cent of seven- and eight-year-olds went to school on their own in 1971; only 9 per cent were doing so 20 years later.

Peter Wilson, director of the charity Young Minds, says 1995 has exposed the dichotomy inherent in modern childhood: "On the one hand, there is prohahly a greater awareness of the importance of childhood than there has been for some time. But on the other hand, the murders and abuse continue. I think adults are more anxious about their own lives and they are taking it out on children.

But he agrees that it was the children who survived in 1995 who hrought the weakness of the young into sharpest focus. The most chilling testimony to the vulnerability of modern children came at Winchester Crown Court when Anne-Marie West's harrowing evidence laid bare the violence perpetrated by her parents.

Mary Braid



The red hot summer

Summer started in Oxford on May morning, with foolish revellers jumping into the Cherwell and gamine classics students drinking lager-top in pubs at 5.45am. It settled in, all cloudless skies and still air, in late May, started to bake with a vengeance around the second week in June, took a couple of days off for experiments with wind, rain and hall, then came on like the Sheltering Sky for July and August. Weeks and weeks of it. "It's the ozone layer," we told each other. "The warnings were all true. We're all, you know, doomed." Sometimes it was a gentie, zephyr-borne heat, little pockets of warmth that burrowed in the folds and crannies of your shirt. Sometimes, when lying on your back at lunchtime beside the Canary Wharf fountain, it seemed to want to roast you

with an angry, spiced malevolence, like an ultra-violet vindaloo.

Streets and gardens are what we will remember about the summer of '95. Of course, London has tried the al fresco thing before, unpteen times, but wanly, tentatively (the Argyll restaurant in Chelsea, now sadly closed down, introduced a tables-in-the-doorway facility, half on the pavement, for those unable to make the full commitment). But suddenly, it came together. Round shiny tables and squat basket-weave chairs blocked your path on every high street from Ealing to Cockfosters. Opportunistic hairdressers encouraged waiting clients to sit at tables outside with their copies of Harpers & Queen and bottles of Ballygowan. Old Compton Street in Soho spilled over with knowing dudes in skinny vests, cruising the boys from Berlin and Copenhagen as they strolled up and down.

The whole Old Compton strip was transformed, lit like a stage-set, its upper windows filled with browsing scenesters drinking Czech Budweiser from the bottle. No one, it seemed, went to bed (except for sex), preferring the hot street. The streets of London disappeared beneath an onslaught of furniture. Calling for lunch with a pub-lisher friend in June, I was led down three alleyways off Oxford Street and found myself in Al Fresco City - the whole of James Street had become a row of white tablecloths and expansive gestures. It could have been Naples.

tana suit has probably still got some same again.

twig or spray of blossom inside it, from the number of occasions you stood beneath the oak or the flowering cherry in someone's bosky backyard in Thinell Park, listening to Sheryl Crow singing "Leavin' Las Vegas". Dining is impossible in gardens, hence the parodic barbecuing of (pre-scare) burgers for languing gourmets to consume with parodic relish. Gardens, having no rooms, define a party better than a house-party can ever do. Here, they tell you, on this suburban sward, like it or you, on this suburban sward, like it or not, is your social life... Or your loyal subjects, should your host be HM the Queen. This summer,

there was no Princess of Wales tacking across the camomile lawns to talk to whuffling brigadiers and charity-work Stakhanovites. The Queen wore light blue, as did the whole sky, and cohorts of newspaper and television executives (I went on "Media Day") shuffled after her, pretending they were doing something more than stare. It was a still day—royal heat is different from conmoner heat - and we drifted around the Buck House pond with amazing slow-ness, trailing languid cumuli of Maritel pink and puce flickered to and fro Denis and Edna Healey executed a modest cha-cha-cha outside the refreshment tent as the band played

"The Floral Dance".

We drove around with the sunroof open, playing Bryan Adams's "Summer of 69" at transmission-seizing volume. Male shorts, so naff and so laughably British, became quite comme il fant. White knickers under white dresses were visible on Tube escalators, as the flesh above and below them turned from alabaster to hurnt sienna. Everybody went on pilgrimage to Wembley to see a quintet of short grandfatherly coves called the Stones. The grass at home turned a weedy lime colour, then white, then a urinous orange. At night, we stood under the trellis of honey suckie, nursing a Famous Grouse with crushed ice, and listened to the random blares and hoots of midsummer in south London, wondering if it was a party to which the rest of the metrop-olis had been invited, but not caring. Just as well we were not going abroad we said, when all the combined hear and smell of Europe seemed gathered Garden parties flourished. The in London And on 5 July, the baby was breast pocket of your lightweight Mon-born and summer nights were never the



Under the sun: sometimes it was a gentle, zephyr-borne heat. Sometimes, it wanted to roast you with a spiced malevolence, like an ultra-violet vindaloo

We've made peace across the frontline

For years, Nichola, an east Belfast Protestant, and Joanne, a west Belfast Catholic, would see each other's faces regularly but they never spoke. They would see each other in the waiting rooms of the Crumlin Road and Maze prisons as they quened to visit their husbands.

Nichola's husband was serving a sentence for a loyalist guns offence; Joanne's hus-band was inside for an IRA bombing. The men left on the outside two women with problems: when they first saw each other, Joanne had three children, while Nichola had two

and another on the way. Now Joanne says, "All those years we never spoke, just looked at each other, up and down. We just kept ourself to ourself." Today, with peace, they have become friends, working together in a prison welfare organisation. They sit together side by

side, giggling about the old days when they would share the same room but never speak.
Now they have broken two
harriers: they not only talk
together in the most friendly way, but they ignore the old regulation that you do not talk about politics or the troubles except in the company of "your. own side". In terms of many of their

attitudes, they are still on different sides but, most unusually for Belfast, they have found the knack of preventing their disagreements from escalating into conflict. (This is still Belfast, and they are nervous about having their names used

in a newspaper.)

They differ about whether the peace will hold. Nichola, the Protestant, does not believe loyalist groups will return to violence unless the IRA does. She has, however, the impres-sion, from the statements of Gerry Adams and others, that the republican side may be less solidly for the peace.
She says: "I think the repub-

lican side is shaky at the monient: I think it's going to break and there will be violence again. There's an awful lot on the loyalist side who will start up again, too, once it does break, because there are lots of peo-

McKittrick meets two

David

Belfast women who overcame old enmitties to become friends

ple still bitter about things that have happened."

Joanne comes from a stalwart republican family; her father was jailed in earlier years and she is much more overtly political, and articulate, than Nichola Her view is different and she expresses it with much more confidence: "No, I don't think Sinn Fein and the IRA are prepared to go back to vio-

"I don't think they can afford to do that, because if the ceasefire breaks now they're not going to get the support and the trust that they had in the past, because people are used to this wee bit of reace, I'm sure there are some people who would be prepared to go back, but I think most would say they're not prepared to do so. It's not fair - you can't expect us to go back to living like that again,

yon just can't.
"Tirust Genry Adams, and I
believe he and Sinn Fein don't want to do it either. We knew from the start the ceasefire was for good, that the war was over for good. I don't think they'll ever go back to armed struggle again; I think it will just go on in politics unless, like, the British government really force

Nichola has no time for loyalist groups and is anxious to keep her 14-year-old son away from them. "I've been through enough in my life. I just shun these organisations; I don't want to know anything about them, I'm anti. I just want to keep my son out of trouble. His friends all write slogans on their schoolbooks, but if I caught him writing anything like that I'd kill him. He knows

The two women also hold

contrasting views on the arms decommissioning issue. "No," says Joanne, "I don't think they should hand over weapons until they're 100 per cent sure that they're going to get something out of it. They didn't fight all those years for nothing. I think if it's genuinely over then they should be handed in, if they're serious - both sides. But sure at the moment they're not even sitting round the table to talk about it. If they hand over all their weapons now, what else have we got to fight with? I there, we'd still have our

weapons."
They differ, too, on the prisoners' issue. Joanne, whose husband has another three years to serve, wants the jail doors opened. She argues: What's the big deal about keeping the prisoners in now-

they can no longer do any-thing; the war's over." Nichola, whose husband has just been released, is not so sure. "But what about the victims?" Joanne touches her arm: Well yes, I understand, don't get me wrong, I understand, but there have been victims on both sides. You have to ask, are you going to keep going on and on? You must show that it's got to stop somewhere - keeping the prisoners in will only keep

going." Nichola replies: "I can understand your personal feelings and all that -there's nothing worse when they're locked up in there and people say, what about the victims, they can't get up out of their graves, they have no life'."
"But," Joanne continues

intently, "what I'm saying is that it's got to stop somewhere." Nichola replies: "Catholic families might be raging to see loyalist prisoners being let out, somebody who has shot their husband. But 1 understand. Something has to be done somewhere. After so long, I think we deserve peace.

And they nod their heads together, not in agreement but in mutual respect and liking. These two women, from very different traditions, have learnt the hard way that agreeing to differ is not the same as

Major, Heseltine, Redwood 6 Portillo, leader writers 0

It was the gamble of the year - and it paid off. Donald Macintyre reports

Because it didn't change the world, it is all too easy to underestimate the gamble John Major took in June by resigning the Tory leadership and invit-ing allcomers to challenge him for his job. He certainly thought he might lose; indeed, he took some care to persuade those closest to him that this might be the outcome. But he didn't, and six months on, it is rather easier than it was then to identify the gainers and losers from the most important domestic political event of 1995.

John Major may not have trans-formed his personal - or for that matter his party's - poll rating, but the ben-efits he reaped from victory are tangible: consider first what might have happened if he had not precipitated a contest. The whips' office appeared to have lost a grip: virtually the only topic of chatter among MPs was the prospect of a contest. Worst of all, Westminster was rife with rumour that Norman Lamont would announce hefore antumn that he intended to challenge Major for the leadership in November, thus ensuring more bedlam at the October Tory party conference than at any time since 1963 when Hailsham, Butler and Home were jockeying for

the succession to Macmillan. Secondly, he made his own luck; by failing to tell John Redwood personally that he had decided to resign the leadership, he gave Redwood an excuse to challenge him - paradoxically a better outcome than if Lamont had taken him on as a "stalking horse". A sizeable vote for Lamont, not to mention simple abstentions, would have counted exclusively as a protest against Major. The campaign by Redwood, who had been in the Cabinet, meant a real contest. Many of the 89 votes for Redwood could be depicted as positive for him rather than negative for Major.

Finally, while a leadership contest in 1996 is still theoretically possible, all probability is against. If nothing else, by securing a comfortable first-ballot margin under the rules, Major had reminded his party that he is rather good at winning elections.

This is one reason why John Redwood was also a gainer. Long the junior partner to Michael Portillo as a government Euro-sceptic, the former
Welsh Secretary spectacularly demonstrated his political instincts by tesigning his Cabinet seat and challenging for the leadership. After a shaky if exciting start in which the more eccentric of



the hard-line Euro-sceptics like Teresa Gorman and Tony Marlow appeared on the platform at Redwood's first press conference. Redwood fought a workmanlike if unglamorous campaign. The result, with a significantly higher personal vote than most MPs expected, put him at the head of the party's backbench right wing, and helped indirectly to generate the funds to establish his own personal think-tank Conservative 2.000. It leaves him in position for after the general election as a serious leadership contender or at the very least, a key player in a post Major shadow Cahinet.

Michael Heseltine must also count among the gainers. There wasn't a sec-ond ballot; he was denied the most glittering prize of all. But Heseltine certainly got the next best thing. The question of whether there was a "deal" in which Heseltine called off his troops and delivered Major his victory in return for the deputy premiership will continue to preoccupy MPs. Certainly, polling of former Tory voters suggest

book, Too Close to Call, two key Major insiders adamantly deny there was any deal. At the very least the "deal" explanation is simplistic [see below]. It is hard to see Heseltine sacrificing a burning ambition sustained since he was a student at Oxford in return for the second prize; nevertheless, he emerged from the contest with real power - and undisputed status as the front-running If John Major Was Run Over By a Bus Before the Election candidate. The deputy premiership was first floated by Major with Heseltine in May. Dis-cussing it with a colleague shortly after-wards, Heseltine remarked that he certainly wasn't going to be "like Geoffrey Howe" - a deputy in name and noth-

ing else. He isn't. Among the losers, Michael Portillo must rate pretty high; firstly. Redwood lonked the more dashing of the two by resigning and fighting. Secondly, his judgement looked suspect for allowing a group - in which David Hart, his somewhat Mephistophelean adviser, appears to have been prominent - to install telephones in a "safe house" from which Portillo would have fought a second ballot campaign for the leadership if there had been one (all the while, he was professing undying loyalty to John Major). Thirdly, he allowed himself

over lunch with two BBC journalists to give rise to a story that he could well be

rime Minister by September. Portillo, therefore, did not have a good war, hut don't write him off. He remains the most charismatic figure on the Tory right, despite all Redwood's well-founded claims to right-wing candidacy for the leadership, and not to mention his own ill-judged "Who dares wins" speech to the Tory conference

later in the year.
Political journalism was a bit of a loser, too. It wasn't only newspapers who came out against Major (most of the Tory press apart from the Express titles) and predicted, as well as pre-scribed, his demise. Political correspondents in general hecame so caught up in the excitement of the threat to Major's premiership that they failed to listen to one or two of the still small voices. There was one passionately pro-Heseltine MP, for example, who predicted there wouldn't be a second ballot and that Major would win decisively in the first.

All of this poses the biggest question of all: did Major win against Redwood because the party is in the end still dom-inated by the centre and left – and didn't want a right winger. Or did he win (and this seems on balance a good deal more likely) for precisely the opposite reason - the party has swung to the right and those that wanted Hescltine as Prime Minister dared not precipitate a second ballot by abstain-

ing because they might wind up with Michael Portillo instead? Certainly, some more astute MPs the pro-Heseltine voice, for example had pointed out that many of the core Heseltine supporters in the 1990 lead-ership contest had subsequently left Parliament and that a Heseltine victory in the second ballot was by no means a foregone conclusion. The Major camp was adept at warning potential pro-Portillo abstainers that they might wind up with Heseltine if there was a second ballot, but they also persuaded a good many pro-Heseltine MPs that they could get Portillo - or Redwood - if

there was a second hallot. The fact is that the abstentions which might have narrowed Major's victory margin to the point that a second ballot would have been required never happened. Neither camp was ready to risk the all-out civil war that now seems inevitable after the general

We have seen the enemy and it is us

Yigal Amir's arm stretches out and there is a jet of flame from his hand directed at Yitzhak Rabin's hack. The prime minister's bodyguards begin to turn, but it is too late. On the roof of the shopping centre behind Tel Aviv town hall Roni Kempler, an amateur with a video camera, records the moment when Mr Rahin is mortally wounded, an instant that may well shape Israeli polities for the rest of the century.

In one sense, the film shows nothing new. There is no second gunman. Amir acts very much as he himself had demonstrated during a staged rea few weeks ago. After waiting nonchalantly at the bottom of the steps down which he knew Mr Rabin must walk at the end of a peace rally, he simply circled behind the prime minister and fired.

But in a broader sense, Kempler's film explains exactly why Mr Rabin died. No Arab would have been able to dawdle close to where the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister were about to pass without being immediately arrested. Yet there is Yigal Amir in his blue T-shirt (his only gesture at disguise was to remove his black skull cap). allowed to wait for his victim without being asked a single question about his presence.

In the immediate aftermath of the assassination, defenders of the Shin Bet security agency explained its failure by saying that members had internalised the belief that a Jew would not kill a Jew. There is probably some truth in this, though the belief that national homogeneity in Israel is significantly greater than in other countries has been disproved repeatedly

since the foundation of the state. In 1948. Rabin himself had been in command of forces that attacked and sank the arms ship Altalena, chartered by the right-wing leader Menachem Begin to bring in weapons. To

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin exposed the deep divisions within Israeli society. Patrick Cockburn assesses the significance of his death



Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres greet the crowd at the peace rally of 4 November, moments before Rabin's murder

between religious and non-religious Jews. Surveys show that 19 per cent of Jews in the country go to synagogue every day and a similar number never go at all.

It is this religious division that is at the heart of differences between left and right. It has fed the venomous opposition to the Oslo accords, under a degree that non-Israelis seldom realise, the politics of Israel is driven by the friction and Gaza. To Yigal Amir and

the religious right, this is aban-doning land that God gave to the Jews. Months before he killed Mr Rabin, senior rabhis called on soldiers to mutiny rather than obey orders to dismantle military hases on the West Bank.

To many Israelis and much of the outside world, these tensions seemed marginal. The rise of the religious right after the Israeli conquest of the West Bank in 1967 had passed largely unnoticed. Few cared that the mainstream religious establishment in Israel had become extreme. A quarter of the population goes to religious schools. Under the so-called hesder programme, students from religious colleges do their military service together with their rabbis. Given the norms of the world in which Yigal Amir lived, killing the prime minister might well seem a

How much has changed since Mr Rabin died on 4 November? In the weeks after the assassination there was a rush to the political centre. Evidence of unity was publicised and exaggerated. It was said that between 850,000 and one million Israelis - a large part of the population - had walked past Rabin's coffin as it lay in front of the Knesset, though witnesses put the real number at well under 100,000.

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud party, even described it as natural and understandable that Yasser Arafat should make his first known visit to Tel Aviv to offer condolences to Mrs Rabin.

The amiability did not last. Soon after the murder, mainstream rabbis happily shared platforms with those suspected of approving the assassination. Rahbinical denunciations of the murder were less than

Parisians at least were having

something akin to a party. Giv-

ing lifts and hitchhiking became

a way of life to the point where

even grandmothers thought nothing of standing by the side of the road holding up a destin-

ation sign. Drivers stopped as a matter of course. If you had thoughts of sitting quietly by yourself in a cafe reading the paper, you were disappointed. Communication became the

order of the day, with everyone

talking to everyone else, com-

People walked vast distances to work – and got lost because

they were unused to navigating

the capital. A river bus proved

plete strangers included.

wholehearted. Many Labour party supporters believed that the settlers on the West Bank, the religious right and opposition to the Oslo accords were the control of the Oslo accords were the permanently discredited. This is probably wishful thinking, or at least exaggerated. Polls show that few Israelis have changed their political opinions and the Labour party will be pushed to win a majority in the general

election next year. Yet the changes in Israeli political culture are fundamental. Previously, the agenda of Israeli society was set by perception of an external threat, real or exaggerated. A survey of the Israeli press since the foun-dation of the state shows that more than 80 per cent of the headlines have dealt with national security issues. It is a view of Israel to which the leaders of Shin Bet and Mr Rabin's personal bodyguards appear to have subscribed. The solitary waiting figure of Yigal Amir, an Israeh and a Jew, sim-ply could not be an assassin.

The assassination also had a direct political impact. It occurred on the eve of the Israeli pull-ont from the main towns of the West Bank. In other circumstances, this would have led to mass demonstrations by the settlers and the religious right. They would have been supported by Likud under Netanyahu, claiming a sell-out by Rabin and Shimon Peres, the foreign minister.
Instead, Israeli forces slid out

of their headquarters in Palestinian towns such as Jenin and Nablus with scarcely a murmur of protest in Israel. Opponents of withdrawal could do nothing. The patriotic card, exploited

by Netanyahu or anyone else, may not be played as successfully in Israel in future as it has in the past. Cynics argue that the exaggerated emotion immediately after Rabin died has turned a tragedy into kitsch. But the images of the murder have hurnt permanently into the minds of many Israelis that the threat from within is as dangerous as that from outside.

Brent how we all lost

Nicholas Schoon spent three days on the oil rig with

Greenpeace protesters. He left convinced they were in the wrong. He was right

Shell and Greenpeace's war over the Brent Spar was thrilling, titanic and very frus-trating. Yet in the end, the pub-lic were probably more misled than enlightened.

Its significance lay in the fact that it had little to do with party

that it had little to do with party politics and international diplomacy and everything to do with late 20th-century forces: global electronic media, international

branding and single-issue cam-paigning. In Brent Spar's case, they were forces of confusion. The ferocity of what was essentially a public relations war, the images of the corroded Spar and the courage of the Greenoeace "action teams" Greenpeace "action teams" made a huge, umnissable story. But most coverage failed to examine or explain the heart of the matter.

It began with Shell persuading the British government that dumping the Brent Spar 7,000ft down in the Atlantic was the "best practicable environmental option". This piece of jargon, BPEO, means the disposal option which minimised damage to the environment, threats to workers' health and safety and disposal costs. The concept captures the most important factors and Shell was right - deep-sea dumping was the BPEO for the Sper, an oil tank containing a few dozen tonnes of oil, a few kilos of toxic heavy metals and

a little low-level radiation. Disposing of it on land was difficult, with much higher costs and extra risks of the structure breaking up and releasing contaminants in inshore waters. tammants in instore waters.
Neither Greenpeace nor anyone
else, could demonstrate that
deep ocean disposal of the Spar
posed a significant threat to the
marine environment.
Greenpeace said sea disposal
set a bad precedent. If the Gov-

ernment allowed a rich oil company to domp the Spar at sea, how could the public he expected to take covironmental protection seriously? Shell had

to abandon sea dumping after a consumer boycolt in Germany. It is a superficially attractive but bad argument which treats the public like children. Decisions on waste disposal and recycling ought to balance econrecycing ought to catance econ-omics and environmental pro-tection. Greenpeace got away-with sloppy thinking by por-traying Shell as the ugly face of big business—greedy, uncaring, and so wealthy that it should not

have to worry about money.
Yet Greenpeace found itself victimised afterwards: it owned up to grossly overestimating the amount of crude oil inside the amount of crude ou misde the Spar. It had said there could be 5,500 tounes, while Shell owned up to 53 tonnes. Independent analysis showed the oil company was nearly right. Across Europe, most media reported the Greenpeace confession in a way which suggested its entire. Spar campaign had been a fraud, which

suggested its entire Spar campaign had been a fraud, which was unfair.

The Spar, now in a Norwegian food, will very likely be disposed of onshore by 1998. The idea that the campaign marked some great breakthrough for environmental politics received. environmental politics received a grave setback later in the year in Mururoa Atoll, when Greenpeace failed to halt French nuclear explosions, and in Ogo-niland where Shell's extraction of oil and gas has gone

So at the end of a year in which arguably green protest in Europe claimed its most signif-Mary Dejevsky identificant and powerful scalp, one was left asking what has changed and what has been learnt.

Mladic, I presume

Standing in Bijeljina's central square on the eve of the holiest day in the Serbian Orthodox calendar, there was nothing in General Ratko Mladic's manner to indicate that he was soon to direct the murder of thousands of men

It was 27 June, the night before the feast of the 4th-century martyr Saint Vitus, and exactly two weeks to the day before Bosnian Serb forces crushed the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica and began to execute its male population.

Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, was in Bijeljina to celebrate the feast. I was there hoping to interview him. It was a crucial moment in the Bosnian conflict, full of expectations and portents.

Bosnia's mainly Muslim government had just failed to break the stege of Sarajevo with 15,000 men, a force that no one had believed it could muster so easily. The Serbs had managed to push back the Muslims, in some areas only just. Next time it might not be so easy.

A month before, the Serbs

hed taken hundreds of UN troops hostage, chaining some to ammunition dumps to ward off new Nato air raids. The gamhit forced a stand-off, not just with Nato and the UN but with the Serbs' backers in Belgrade, who sent their chief secret policeman to get Mladie to back down. All this had taken its toll, and the morale of the Bosnian Serh

army was said to be rock bottom. I thought the best way to gauge the future was to talk to the man responsible for setting the rhythm of the war. Normally he was unavailable as he was on the frontline. Only on occasions such as St Vitus Day did he come out to play. He was leaving a celebration of Serbian

(II)

Would you shake hands with the Serb general wanted for war crimes? Robert Block did

culture when my chance came.
"General, this is Robert Block the British journalist who named you 'Man of the Year'." With these words Lieutenant-Colonel Milovan Milutinovic, the Bosnian Serb army spokesman, introduced me to the warrior prince of the former Yugoslavia and the man suspected of being one of this century's most notorious war criminals.

A smile broke across the gen-eral's broad face and he took my hand in a grip as firm as his nationalist convictions. "I am honoured to meet you," he said, "but I am afraid you sent this accolade to the wrong address."

Never had the general spo-ken truer words. This "honour" he thought I had bestowed was not meant as a compliment. In an article for the Independent on Sunday I had stated that Ratko Mladic was a contender for the 1994 title not because of his virtues, but because of his ruthlessness and his horrifying success in calling the bluff of Nato's rubber-willed leaders.

I remember thinking how someone famous once warned against using irony with politicians: it will only anger them or be lost on them altogether. I was relieved Mladic fell into the latter category.

If I were expecting to see any sign of desperation in the man the Serbs call a living legend. I was mistaken. He stood before

me, oozing confidence, power and, dare I say it, charm. In photographs and from afar,

wearing his Napoleon-style cap and dress uniform, Mladic looked huge. But close up, he was of average height and build. torch blue eyes. And when he spoke to me that night it was of peace, not war. "It's high time the weapons in this part of the world, and all over the world. were silenced. If it were in my power. I wouldn't let the word war be uttered in any language."

For all his pretences at being a peacemonger, his plans were already well advanced to wipe out Srebrenica and the other Muslim enclaves. The only indication that something was afoot came in a speech he made just before I saw him: "The upcoming period ... can be decisive for the outcome of the war." Looking back. I wonder if he

realises how prophetic he was. His onslaught against Sre-brenica set in motion a chain of events that led to a Croatian drive which crushed Serbian rebels in the Krajina and retook huge areas of Serb-held territory in Bosnia. Having driven UN troops from the enclaves, Mladic lost his leverage over Nato. No longer hindered by the threat of hostages, the Allies unleashed unprecedented air attacks against the Serbs. In the end, he was sidelined and the Serbs forced to sue for peace. None the less, one image

haunts mc. Two weeks after we met, he arrived in Srebrenica to comfort the conquered. The minute Serh cameras were turned off, Muslims were rounded up and executed, I cannot get past the memory of that right hand parting those children whose fathers Mladic later killed. It was the same hand that I shook.

Strikes and solidarity teach the French élite a lesson

can he have suspected that this appealing slogan would, by the year's end, have been turned on its head, threatening to isolate the president and his men on the wrong side of the divide.
When Chirac was campaign-

ing, what he had in mind was the glaring discrepancy between the haves and have-nots in Nineties France; the extent to which one section of the popu-lation seemed to be excluded from the mainstream of French life: the young unemployed, the second-generation immigrants on the housing estates, the urhan poor. The perception that there were two distinct French populations worried the voters: it allowed Mr Chirac to hijack the traditional agenda of the left while presenting himself as the candidate of change, and

gave him victory. It was the wave of day-long strikes that preceded the election, however, that gave a fore-taste of what was to come. "The one good thing about strikes." people said in anticipation, "is that the French become very solidaire." Indeed they do.

It took the all-out strike by the national railways and Paris local transport in November and December, coupled with intermittent strikes by the public utilities, to show the degree of that solidarite. For what began as a series of separate protests, linked by a very hazy idea about the government's proposed welfare reforms, and general public-sector fury about

The "unique selling point" an imminent pay freeze, escalated rapidly into a grass-roots the French presidency on 7 May was his promise to heal the country's social divisions. Little country is social divisions. Little country is considered in the considered in the country is considered in the country is considered in the

was dangerously to the fore. The scale of the protest was all the more unexpected because the government - in the person of the prime minister, Alain Juppe had made what he considered were great efforts to "consult" before he announced his reforms. The people, however, thought differently.

The idea that France, with its renowned high-speed trains, should be entirely without a national rail service for more than three weeks, and that a city the size of Paris (3.5 million people), should be without all its public transport for the same time, would have been inconcrivable before it happened. When it did, though, people rallied round and refused to hlame the strikers whose action was making life so inconvenient.

An early attempt by Juppé's

up for work as usual - but could not take the trains out - joined

such a success that it may sur-vive beyond the strike. Walking, cycling, roller-hlading — any method of getting to work was An early flush of indignation by small shopkeepers was lost in the co-operative effort. The rush hour became rush hours to the point where the only times to drive in and out of Paris were at dead of night or between 11am

and 3pm. The highway code was a dead letter and parking restric-tions were lifted; but drivers also became strangely patient. Remarkably, until the strike was almost over, there was vir-tually no evidence of ill-feeling between strikers and non-strik-ers. The few buses that plied their routes were not picketed or stoned. Railwaymen who turned

national cohesion in which large majority of the French population overcame Chirac's "social fractures" to band together, but against the government and especially against Juppé. With his cool manner and his insistence that people had only to understand his logic to accept it, the prime minister seemed to many the quintessence of an increasingly unpop-ular élite: the intellectual business school graduate, incapable of communicating outside his charmed circle. As the strike drew to its end.

overtaken by a combination of government concessions, hardship among strikers and general ship among strikers and general fatigue, Jupé appeared on television looking haggard. He had held on to central elements of his welfare reform and he had held on to his job (just); but he looked a beaten and humbled man and he spoke of listening and of reconciliation. Whether this was a change of

image or substance mattered at that point less than the fact that such a change had been deemed necessary at all, and that a chink had been opened in the armour of the protected French élite. The social fractures on which

Chirac campaigned have not vanished; nor have they been healed. But they were briefly relegated to the sidelines as the French took a hard look at the people who govern them and decided to teach them a lesson.

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It was football's annus horribilis— 112 months of bungs and back-

handers, head-butting and kung fu kicking, coke addiction and taxi demolition. Yet the year's most sig-

nificant moment came one day at the end of October when, out of the

era of English league football had

finally begun:
Middlesbrough made quite a performance of the signing. Juninho

played keepy-uppy on the pitch with his new manager, Bryan Robson: 3,000 fans filed into the main stand

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A small wonder among the bungs

A little Brazilian's arrival lifted the slur of sleaze from British football, says Jim White

tunnel of a stadium opened only weeks previously, trotted a 5ft 3in lad with a Stephen Hendry-sized distance from the main attraction). And the chih was right to put no skin problem, surrounded by minsuch a show; to snap up the world's ders, photographers and bemused policemen. The day Juninho, the small and perfectly talented Brazilian international, signed for Middlesbrough Football Club, the new best young player was a coup worth making a song and samba about. Since the Premier League was formed in 1993, concentrating the

new money coming into the game into its upper tiers, the leading clubs in England have increasingly been able to afford fancy foreign players. Journeymen foreigners, cloggers and leather-lunged trundlers from Scandinavia and Eastern Europe had been a staple for a number of of the new Cellnet Riverside Sta- years; they were useful players who dium (many wearing sombreros); came cheap. But the Premier heroics in the World Cups of 1990 the world's press was invited along. League chairinen have started to and 1994 rather than his barren (and kept corralled in a pen a safe shop around, picking up some of the years at Internazionale, were pre-

sharper continental talents, such as pared to bolster his pension fund

Alan Sugar, Tottenham's chairman. The fans knew him as a class act, and his public relations skills would help the chairman to win over those dismayed by the recent power struggle between Sugar and Terry Venables, the former manager. Klinsmann, too, was grateful for the opportunity. Jaded by his time in Italy, he was delighted to rehabilitate himself against less sophisticated defences in England. Besides, these English-men, who remembered him for his

Jurgen Klinsmann enormously. So he came to England, spent a year filling his boots with goals and money, and went home to Germany happy.

Over the summer of 1995, the Klinsmann route was followed by two major Dutch stars - Ruud Gullit and Dennis Bergkamp. Neither was quite the player he had been and neither was in the first flush of youth, but both served an important purpose for their clubs: they would sell expensive season tickets by the truckload. And, as it happened, bnth (until recent injuries) have given accomplished performances.
Juninho is different. He is young,
he is still learning his game and,

Rugby union's problem used

to be articulating the justification

for its amateurism to a wider

public used to professional sport. This was particularly so in Eng-

land, where the extreme reluc-

tance with which the governing body, the Rugby Football Union,

greeted earlier liberalisations of

the amateur code incensed their

international players to the point of complete breakdown between

administrators and those they

Now full-blown professional-

ism has been inflicted (as some

at Twickenham see it) on the

game, the RFU is struggling to

come to terms with amateurs

running a professional game. Why else would the RFU's full

committee - the "57 old farts" of Will Carling's notorious jibe -resist the advice of its own com-

Andrew, retired from inter-

board of management?

ndministered.

Bergkamp, he is a stranger to to talk to him. So thrilled was the Britain, its language and its ways. Generally, players of his ilk go to Italian league clubs, tempted there by lorryloads of lire. But Juninho chose England. Not only that; he signed for a club without an international reputation, only just pro-

moted to the top division. The story of how Bryan Robson came to circumvent precedent is as quaint as it is intriguing. He was alerted to the player long before anyone else in England by a Boro fan who, travelling in Brazil, happened to see him play and wrote to Robson to enthuse. Robson watched Juninho matched anything that might have boardroom, 19 demolish England in a summer tourbeen offered by Milan or Juventus.

unlike Klinsmann, Gullit and nament, and then flew to Sao Paulo young Brazilian by the interest shown by such a renowned figure as Rob-son, the former Manchester United and England captain, that he decided to sign for him on the spot. No one else, he said, as he was interviewed poring over an atlas looking for the English town with the funny name.

had shown such interest. It was not simply Robson's attentiveness. The money he brought with him - supplied by Steve Gibson. Boro chairman and a man happy to use his personal fortune to help his club gate-crash the big time -

In the end, though, the package of transfer fee and salary that landed Juninho worked out at less than Manchester United forked out for Andy Colc. Few would argue over

who got the better value.

It was typical of the recalcitrant insularity of some parts of the English footballing establishment that many predicted the slight youngster would not flower in Middlesbrough as he might have done in Italy. Too cold, too industrial, opposing defenders too hard was the consensus. As if it is warm in Turin in January, as if Sao Paulo is a bucolic paradise, as if Paulo Maldini is a softie.

But as Juninho struts his stuff in front of full houses in the grand new stadiums of the Premicrship, it should not be taken as a metaphor for the overall health of the professional game. In the lower leagues, clubs such as Brighton and Hull face extinction. In football, as in the boardroom, 1995 was the year the

As Rob's kick fell to earth, amateurism went with it. By Steven Bale

Drop goal gorgeous



It is an irresistible temptation to identify the second or so it took Rob Andrew's drop goal to go from boot to posts and so beat Australia in Cape Town as a watershed for English rugby union just as much as England

rugby.
As it turned out, the World Cup quarter-final on that exquisite day in June was the zenith of England's World Cup achievement, the subsequent defeats in the semi-final by New Zealand and the third-place match by France marking the end for the last remnants of the old guard who had seen England through their most prosperous era.

And with the change in the team came the change in the game. Seventy-eight days after England had beaten Australia, rugby union turned professional. How appropriate, we might now say with hindsight, that it was Andrew who saw out the old, for be personifies the new. It was Andrew who was the hardestnosed players' negotiator when the England squad were ringing in the professional age; he has become the highest-paid of the new professionals.

It is curious to recall that the same hard-nosed Andrew, supposedly receiving £150,000 a year as rugby development director of Newcastle United Sport-breath; now it's in with the new. as the player whom any woman would like as her son-in-law.

He can be said to have symbolised the best of amateurism at a time when every other boxoffice sport had long since and unashamedly embraced professionalism. Approachability and affability are not universally endorsed as essentials for the professional sportsman and Andrew the amateur had both in

And he still has. Yet to hear him now is to appreciate how much he - or perhaps that should be rugby - has changed. Amateurism having departed with his famous drop goal, professionalism is suddenly England rugby's only salvation against the likes of South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

"It is almost a cultural change we need in the northern hemisphere," he said. "It means being professional about winning from an early age. It's the only way the likes of Scotland, Ireland and England can live with the southern hemisphere. We have to make playing at a higher level and winning important."

These remarks, made in a

television programme over the weekend that reviewed the 1995 World Cup, mark a cultural change in themselves. Andrew is in the marketplace to huy a team for Newcastle - no different in principle (only in the number of noughts on the contracts) from Kevin Keegan, his Newcastle football counterpart.

Monica's meltdown

John Roberts recounts the day when a fairy-tale comeback was cheated of a happy ending

Aesthetically speaking, the home of the United States Open hears little or no comparison to Wimbledon. Flushing Meadows, New York, was once used far dumping and burning Brooklyn's rubbish - F Scott Fitzgerald called it "a val-ley of ashes" in *The Great* Gatshy - but the place atones by staging many of the most exciting tennis matches imaginable, despite weird scheduling.

Female players, while treated equally with men in terms of the tournament's prize money - \$575,000 went to each of this year's singles champions - seem almost to be regarded as an afterthought on the day of the final. Their lot, on what is known as "Super Saturday", is to be sandwiched between the two men's singles semi-finals to satisfy television's demands.

But no one doubted which mission on professionalism to match rated top hilling on 9 give its executive a more business-like feel by calling it the September - Steffi Graf versus Mônica Seles. The two greatest players of their generation, jointly ranked No 1 in the world, had played their way to national rugby, is under no such constraints at Newcastle. He was appointed by Sir John Hall not the most eagerly awaited conto play a game but to do a job of work, which is what rugby at its

test for years.

An American commentator said Seles and Graf had both most exalted levels has become in 1995. The old went out when been stabbed in the back: Seles,

No 1 in the world rankings; Graf, figuratively, by her father/ manager Peter, who was in prison accused of evading millions of marks in tax on her earnings.

Graf had won six of the 10 major championships played in Seles's absence since the stabbing in Hamhurg in 1993, each victory perceived by many to have been hollow. Through no fault of her own, Graf had come to be regarded as the dominating force in a diminished league in which other competitors prospered chiefly

when she was unfit. Seles, restored physically and mentally and granted a share of the No I ranking which had been hers at the time of the

attack, had altered only slightly. Aged 19 when assaulted, she was, at 21, an inch and a half

Monica Seles: still grunting a valley of ashes.

taller - 5ft 11in, She had also gained a few pounds around the middle and had provoked a niggling knee injury trying to

run them off. Otherwise, she was as we remembered – the flurry of two-handed strokes, the screwing up of the nose in concentration, the grunting (perhaps not so loud or frequent as hefore, but given vent if the going got tough), and the giggling, which continued to punctuate interviews.

The credibility of women's tennis was at stake when Graf and Seles eventually made their way to the Stadium Court. The fact that Seles, although rusty, had won the 11 matches of her comeback without losing a set hardly reflected credit on her opponents. If Graf, her equal, also suffered humiliation, potential sponsors could have been

lost to the sport. However, all these misgivings were cast aside when the action began, 20,000 spectators thrilling to an oscillating contest. At the end, only one point separated the players. And it was in Graf's favour - at 7-6, 0-6, 6-3,

More than two years of pain and anguish seemed to evaporate as Graf and Seles embraced - a day of splendour in

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Eleven good men and true

Of course, there is no such thing as an ideal cricket team, because it depends what you want. In the heyday of the fast men, Clive Lloyd would probably have picked 11 expresspace bowlers, while Geoff Boycott, in his fierce prime, might have plumped for 11 limpet-like opening bats. But most people like a bit of everything: the odd thunderelap of speed in the bowling supported by plenty of guile, and a mixture of steeliness and virtuosity from the batsmen.

But for those who like their cricket acrimonious, the game might easily furnish 11 players guaranteed to run each other- for "best all-rounder" honours out. Lara and Richardson, who have given the world the spectacle of a West Indies captain and vice-captain barely on side - but it might be the first speaking terms, could open the time in history that a team has betting. Salim Malik would have needed 11 dressing rooms. to drop down the order to support Shape Warne and Tim pile a team designed purely to though there is a case, now that May, the Aristralians who have

Robert Winder selects his fantasy World Cricket XI

bowling with Philip DeFreitas, whose cricket bag he once, famously, chucked out of the pavilion window at Leicester, and it is hard to imagine a less chummy pair of back-up bowlers than Devon Malcolm and Ray Illingworth Slagging it out in the middle order would be Ian Botham and Imran Khan, rivals and opponents in an on-going libel action about racism. As it happens, this wouldn't be a bad

It might be more fun to com-

bribery. Jonathan Agnew might have to be recalled to open the way Colin Croft, the former accused him of attempted tors. One of the more pleasant West Indian fast bowler, insisted on referring tn Atherton as Arthurton and vice versa. These two would, as it happens, make a fine opening partnership. They could be followed by Waugh and Waugh, Richardson and

A serious selection is altogether trickier: the great players of the present day never seem so grand as the fabled performers of yesteryear. Still, not many people would argue with the front four batsmen: Atherton, Slater, Lara and Tendulkar, pure a ream designed purely to though these so-twist the tongues of commenta- England's captain has proved called world-beaters down a pog.

Richardson, Rhodes, Rhodes,

Benjamin, Benjamin and Kum-

ble (with Kambli twelfth man).

himself the master of the rear-guard action, for sticking him in at number 11, just in case. Nor are there many batsmen in the world who would fancy their chances against a bowling attack of Allan Donald, Waqar Younis, Curtly Ambrose, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble.

The wicketkeeper would be lan Healy (if only because he has, as it were, heen Warned), which leaves a single batting place up for grabs. Azharuddin gets "the nod" on the basis that he'd probably be captain. Naturally, with all these mae-

stros competing for the lime-light, Mickey Stewart would have to be team manager. There'd be lots of work-outs in the gym, early nights and fines for unpunctuality. As all sports administrators know, the key thing with great players is to show 'em whn's boss. If nothing else, that would take these so-

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Who's out of the in-crowd?

in this year

Hugh Grant and Liz Hurley. A divine couple still, proving there is less to life than rehearsed diffidence (him) and minimal dressing (her). Anthea Turner. For smiling a lot. For heing

Anthea. Prince William, who escaped the hell of a dysfunctional family for the hell of a public school. Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith. The marriage everyone assumes won't last. But it will. She won't want to give up wearing those designer shalwar kameea. Demure Baymuch babe Pamela Anderson and modest husband Tommy Lee. Their willingness to share every inch of their private life with the world has kept the Daily Star in

The Stones. The Voodoo ain t ready to fade awa PR person Julia Carling. who rode the storm of



with Princess Diana with such aplomb she became the patron saint of PR persons and landed her own TV

Bob Geldor, who looked sorry for himself and still resolutely refuses to wash. Brookside. The shap had the nation agog when battered wife Mandy Jordache tought for justice after killing her husband and burying his body under the patio, and aquiver over Beth Jordache's lesbian kisses. Eric Cantona. Elevated thanks to Nike to godlike status after his high-kicking performance against a Crystal Palace fan. Michael Jackson, who still has hit records and still appears to be married to Lisa-Marie. Inside: Ronnie Knight one-time love of Barbara Windsor, After years defying extradition on the Costa del Crime, he gave himself up

and was surprised to be sent

Vanessa Mae, who rook off her clothes and learnt

Loaded - magazine of the

leer - for appealing to the baser instincts of young men

down for seven years.

how to play the violin.

and making unpolitical

correctness correct.

Julie Goodyear, aka Bet Gilrov, the bechive temptress of the Raver's Return, who left Coronation Street for a life of panto and chat shows. Anne Diamond and Nick Owen... sofa, but no further. an and Rachael

Featherstone, who sued the tour firm Cosmos after their honeymoon in St Lucia was wrecked by a hurricanc. They claimed it upset them so much they couldn't make love. Kenny Everett, who died from Aids in an £8,000 hed bought for the occasion from Harrods. Cherie Blair's clothes. Gillian Taylforth, of

EastEnders. for writing the dullest autobiography of all time in an attempt to explain what pancreatitis really is. Two-timer **Ken Dunn**. When he died his mistress and widow went to court to see who could be huried alongside him. The mistress won.

Gazza. Lost his touch on the field and his long-suffering.

girlfriend, Sheryl, as well. stephen Fry walked out on Cellmates, resurfaced on the Internet, sported a succession of had hair-dos. The Beatles. Imagine what

Lennon would have made of

all the rehashed mediocrity.

Robbie Williams, sacked from Take That, He immediately guaranteed the end of his 15 minutes by posing in a bikini bottom. Paula Yates who left the Big Breakfast and Bob Geldof for INXS singer Michael Hutchence, who she boasted was God's gift to women. More off than out: Emma Thompson and Kenneth Branagh. She then showed more sensibility than sense by romancing Sense and Sensibility co-star Greg Wise. More over and out than out: Ulrika Jonsson, who tossed her blonde mane and confessed to two-timing her



hushand with Gladiator Hunter. The couple had been together long enough to have a baby after she had confessed about another affair with a cameraman. Jill Morrell and John McCarthy. The romance that everyone wanted to work didn't. In. out, swing it all about: Princess Diana.

RICHARD HOLLEGE

Period pin-up: Mr Darcy in the BBC's 'Pride and Prejudice', played by Colin Firth. The video sold 12,000 copies within two hours of release Our knight in icy armour

Why did the emotionally repressed Mr Darcy send the nation's women into a swoon? Decca Aitkenhead on the shortcomings of the man of the year

Few could have predicted that this year's man of the moment, the sex symbol to outshine all Hollywood's effortlessly into the place in our heaving hearts previously occupied by Hugh Grant, Keanu Reeves and, for some of

the young, the entire cast of Take That. It was an astonishing rise to fame for Colin Firth (the hitherto unremarkable jobbing luvvie who played Darcy), as he himself reluctantly admits. Within two episodes, he had shot to heights of amorous adulation of which most period drama actors could but dream. The autumn series drew audiences of more than 10 million; the video sold in excess of 70,000 copies (the first run, of 12,000. sold out within two hours); the Times was congratulated on its almost daily publication of Firth's picture by a grateful

The ladies of Fleet Street were, to a express his emotions. He was such an hunkiest, would be a character some 200 woman, won over. "If the BBC were to arrogant bastard - but he did the transyears old. Mr Darcy. Austenian hero of Pride and Projudice, glowered his way

T-shirt, it would probably sell enough to halve the licence fee - that tousled brown hair and those deep-set eyes ... murmured another. The Independent's own diarist, Bridget Jones, indulged in lengthy fantasy: "I love the way he talks, as if he can't be bothered." she drooled.

Pictures of Darcy, lovingly cut out, appeared like a rush on office pin boards and suburban fridge doors. Revelations that Firth and co-star Jennifer Ehle were conducting an on-set affair off-camera only served to fuel the frenzy focused on all things Darcy. Fascination

with his breeches knew no bounds. But what precisely was it about our brooding hero that sent a nation into collective freefall swoon?

female readership. It was concluded the BBC, all due to "the Darcy phenomenon". One young professional devotee explained: "It was his total inability to One young professional devotee formation from icy, arrogant hastard to warm, caring individual so well.

"It was the facial hair as well, I think. He always had a bit of very manly latent stubble." And she seemed to speak for the nation's women, or her mother and sister at least.

So, an arrogant, unkempt, icy bastard, incapable of indicating that he harbours hidden hut warmer waters, saved only by the love of a good woman - is this at the Nineties female goes for?

If this is the contemporary thinking woman's beefcake, then what we are seeing is an epidemic of mad cows. Darcy is the height of unreconstructed male inadequacy. Trapped within a peculiarly masculine vanity, he behaves disgracefully, yet he attracts and in-

trigues women who should know better. The only reason they lost the plot so shame lessly over him," according to one of the few women unmoved by Darcy's dubious charms, "was because he was supposedly 'highbrow'. It was perfectly OK for intelligent women to relapse into idiocy over someone created by Jane Austen - they could never have done it over some bloke invented by Hollywood."

Darcy does indeed prove himself ultimately worthy of Miss Bennett's affections. But what is so distressing is that it was his preceding pride and posturing that captivated the viewers. Women idolised Darcy not in spite of his "total inability to express his feelings". but because of it.

If the British women's sex symbol of 1995 was two centuries out of date, so, too, it seems, were their demands for a half-decent man

A lousy year for Leeson

She never wanted to be any-thing except Nick Leeson's wife. She is not materialistic and despite the rumours, her husband only earned £52,000 a year - not a lot by top City stan-dards. She wished he could spend more time at home with her and, above all, she longed for a baby. Unfortunately, Nick

Lesson had greater ambitions.
When they celebrated the
new year with friends in Singapore, Nick was one of Barings'
most dazzling young moneyspinners, gambling on Japanese futures on the Nikkei-225 index. The bank gave him a pretty free hand; it just sat back and let him make millions. He was promised a £450,000 bonus in March and told Lisa they would hang on long enough to collect that, then go back to England, huy a nice house with a big garden and start a family. He may even have believed it: certainly Lisa did.

in the early weeks of 1995 she knew he was under a lot of stress. He could not sleep at night; he never relaxed. She did not know the stress was because Nick had gambled more than £600m of the hank's money, and it looked as though he was

on a losing streak. By the end of February catastrophe could no longer be avoided. Nick resigned from Barings and took his wife away for the weekend – anywhere, wherever the next flight was going to – to explain himself before going back to face the music. As they flew out of Singapore the world's press, and his former employers, were already searching for them.

Four days later, on 2 March, they landed in Frankfurt. For the next eight months Lisa travelled to Germany every week to spend an hour with her hus-band in Frankfurt prison, while the lawyers argued about whether he should be tried in England or Singapore. By July, Lisa had thrown herself into the fray, pleading with the media to help her busband fight extradition to Malaysia.

明男 アンチング

Singapore won. On 22 November she accompanied Nick as he was flown back to stand trial. He pleaded guilty and on 2 Dec-ember was sentenced to six and a half years. Privately, he had hoped for four. Lisa will spend those years doing what she has done for most of her married life: waiting for her husband to come home.

In 1995 Lisa's world collapsed around her. In January she was living in Singapore in some style, waiting only for Nick's big bonus before they could go home. Now she is home all right, but living with her parents in the same Kent village from which she was married less than four years ago. She works part-time in a local tea-room, wearing an old-fash-ioned black and white waitress's uniform and serving homemade cakes and scones

How does she feel, looking back? "Not bitter, hat disappointed and numb. Nick was only doing his job as best he could. Fve had untold letters of support and they all think Nick's been scapegoated. I feel that, too. If somebody, somewhere in Barings had questioned what he was doing this would never have happened." She may be a sadder and a wiser woman, hut she remains & a devoted and loyal wife.

Angela Lambert



Lisa Leeson: still loval

Z INDEPENDENT Special Reports Diary

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1996

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The funny man's coming out seemed only to enhance his popularity, says John Lyttle

Barrymore shows honesty pays

The rumours had been cir-culating since 1985, the year Michael Barrymore became the star in ITV's light entertainment firmament as the hyper-active host of Strike It Lucky. Barrymore read the papers and flew back to Britain from There had been ominous rumblings early in 1995 - "Bartymore falls off the wagon. "Drag queen talks of his nights out with Barrymore". "Mar-riage of funny man is believed to be in crisis". But it was not until 6 August that the Sunday tabloids felt the time was right to expose Britain's most popular television performer as a "eloset case" – a mrtured gay supposedly sheltering behind his wife and manager. Cheryl, while indulging in drink, drugs and illicit sexual liaisons. further divided; some wanted

As it turned out, the time was not right. The viewers who made the superstar refused to break him. But when the predictably lurid headlines began, his continued survival as a stellar pres-ence looked doubtful. Girls claim to have seen comedian kissing man in gay cluh" was bad, but not as damaging as Barrymore makes drunken pass at Bobby Davro". However, that seemed tame in comparison with John Davis reveals Michael Barrymore's nights of gay love", John Davis being the funny man's former personal assistant and telaimed Davis Lexlover. Davis stated that he was spilling the beans not to harm Barrymore, but to save him: "Michael must face un to the truth of who and what he is. He is a very sick man who is deny-

ing his real sexual feelings."

weather the storm", as one observer breathlessly put it. Actually, it was not so much storm as soap opera. Right down to Barrymore turning up in Croydon the next day to begin shooting his new series. My Kind of People, and his wife's unexpected appearance being rewarded with a photogenic kiss. If the intention was to calm rampant "is he/isn't he" speculation, it accomplished he opposite. Public opinion

homosexual. As one punter comforted Cheryi. "We know it Barrymore knew hetter. By In August, so did everyone dse. Invited on to the stage of the White Swan pub in London and asked by the drag queen comocre if the finally decided to tell the world". Barrymore answered "Yes ... yes, I am," tore off his wedding ring and shouted, "Fuck it." The media feeding from redoubled, especially when Barrymore confirmed his coming out ("It saved my life"; on a gay radio programme. The burning topic

- could Barry more's career go

him to "come out", some could

not comprehend the fuss, some

did not care, and some simply

could not believe their hero was

tures and comment pages, as pundits weighed in with their opinions. The Daily Mirror praised his honesty - "It took a lot of courage for troubled Michael Barrymore to admit he's gay" - while Today peddled cynicism: "It is hard to shake the feeling that it was all an

What was now becoming clear was the fans' refusal to find either the star's sexual orientation, or the muck-raking exposure of it. a reason to end their allegiance to him. There were attempts to whip up indignation on behalf of Cheryl, the

"betrayed party". According to the People, "Michael Barrymore has shown no courage whatsoever. He has been dragged. kicking and screaming all the way out of that closet." These fell on deaf ears, though arguably the public had as much right to feel betrayed as any spouse. After all, Barrymore had sold himself as a family man trying his best; his constituency empathised with his terrible childhood, his struggles with booze and dope, his anguish over Cheryl's miscarriages.

Yet it was this pall of tragedy and his own caring, compas-

rymore Goes Gay appeared to be yet another episode in a weepie that Britain did not want to end – and it, at last, provided an explanation for his earlier self-destructive hehaviour. When 29 August rolled around and he swept the National TV Awards, triumphing in all his nominated categories (hest presenter, best quiz and - the hig one - best family programme) it was, to every newspaper's bitter disap-pointment, all over. Barrymore had come through the "scandal" not only unscathed, hut enhanced - final proof, if any was needed, that there's nowt so queer as folk. David Ashby, please copy.

probably saved his bacon. Bar-

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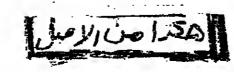
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the sales

START TODAY

HOMES AND INTERIORS

2 Drury Way, North Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and at branches in Croydon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and War-rington. To 14 January. Up to 50 per cent savings throughout the store, including black leather three-seat sofa from £335 to £249.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Body Shop First nationwide sale, Customer services (01903 731500). To 13 January. Products range from Seaweed & Birch shampoo (reduced from £1.25 to 60p) to Mamatoto Baby Bottom (reduced from £2 to £1) for. those who want a cheap cure for sore bottoms.

SCOTLAND

DEPARTMENT STORES

(Scottish branches) General customer information 0171-408 3333. -

House of Fraser (Scottish branches) Aberdeen (01224 592341), Edinburgh (0131-225 2472), Glasgow (0141-221 3880). To last week of January.

CLOTHES

Laura Ashley (Scottish branches) Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth. Customer services (01686, 622333) Between 20-50 per cent off selected items.

Racing Green 16 Buchanan Street, Glasgow (0141-226 4114). A sale catalogue can be obtained from 27. December on 0345 331177. Reductions on selected men's and women's classic items of 30-60 per cent.

NOW RUNNING

CLOTHES

Christian Lacroix 8a Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2400) and 29 Old Bond Street, London W1-(0171-409 1994). To middle/end January. Discounts of 30 per

Comme des Garçons 59 Brook Street, London W1 408 3333. (0171-493 1258). To mid January. Reductions of up to 40 per Ferwick cent off all remaining men's and women's collections including Robes de Chambre, Comme des Garçons Tricot and Junya Watanabe.

French Connection 99 Long Acre, London WC2 and branches around the country. General inquiries (0171-580

836 9168) and branches nationwide. General customer information 0171-586 5550. Buy your party gear at prices discounted by up to 50 per cent. Strappy stilettoes are reduced from £59.99 to £29.99, ballerina shoes from £28.99 to £19.99, satin cross-over dress from £64.99 to £32.99, bouclé flared dress from £49.99 to £29.99 and leopard skirt down from £49.99 to £29.99.

Basement, 4 Brewer Street, London W1 (0171-437 1259). To end of January. Thirty to 50 per cent off Hysteric Glamour (the Japanese answer to 'really cool' T-shirts), Jndy Blame and Gimme 5.

SHOES

Only at 184-188 Oxford Street. London W1. Sale starts at other branches this weekend. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stilletto-heeled shoes.

HOMES AND INTERIORS

65 Cross Street, London N1

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NOW ON **REDUCTIONS OF UP TO 50%** ALL BRANCHES NATIONWIDE

For nearest branch telephone: 0171 586 5550

SALES GUIDE: WHERE TO FIND WHAT AND WHEN



of all ranges of mof kitchen fur-niture; 60cm wall cupboard reduced from £195 to £175.50. MISCELLANEOUS

301 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-409 2619) and at stores nationwide. Discounted goods include the Kastle bike Degree 3.5 - was £299.99, now £240. Nike ladies' air total body trainers are down from £59.99 to

SALES TO COME

DEPARTMENT STORES

Starts 27 December at branches throughout England and Wales. 334-348 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-580 3000). General customer information, 0171-

Starts 27 December at 63 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 9161) and stores in Brent Cross, Windsor, Leicester, York, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells. Sale at the large Newcastle branch starts 28 December At Bond Street, Mondi collections will be reduced by 30-50 per cent; 2507). 30-50 per cent off Fenn Wright & Manson, Betty selected stock. Barclay collections by up to 50 Barclay collections by up to 50 per cent, and 30 per cent off Weekend collections. Reduc-Unit 17, The Piazza, Covent tions at Brent Cross include up Garden, London WC2 (0171- to 50 per cent off French Connection, Jacques Vert and Bianca; 50 per cent off leather handbags and selected jewellery by Monet, Ciro and

> Fortnum & Mason Sale starts 28 December at 181 to £65, English Eccentrics vel-Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-734 8040).

Smash-and-grab of the year starts 3 January at Knights-bridge, London SW1 (0171-730 1234). Reductions of up to half price are offered throughnut the store. Account customers receive an additional 10 per cent off their shopping on day one of the sale.

Harvey Nichols Starts 27 December at 109-125

Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5000). The sale is expected to last around three weeks. Account customers get an additional 10 per cent off the sale price for the first four days. Specific bargains are a secret, but expect reductions to be up to 50 per cent off selected items throughout the store.

House of Fraser Starts 27 December in England and Wales. For store sites, ring (0171-354 9933). Ten per cent 0171-963 2236. Bargains in the

CLOTHES

Amanda Wakeley Starts 5 January for about two weeks at 80 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-584 4009). Reductions will be 40-80 per cent off, including samples.

off Le Creuset cast iron cookware in American green and burgundy and 50 per cent off Judge satin stainless steel cookware. Over at the homewares department, Drifter goosedown duet duvets (9 tog for spring, autumn and 4.5 tog for summer) are balf the recommended retail price at £129. Also balf price is Romantique

cookshop include 40 per cent

Juhn Lewis Partnership Clearance sale starts 28

and white, reduced from £70 to

December at 278-306 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 7711) at the following branches - Peter Jones, Sloane Square, John Lewis, Brent Cross, Bainbridge, Newcastle, John Lewis, Cheadle, John Lewis, High Wycombe, John Lewis, Aberdeen and John Lewis, Edinburgh. The sale starts 29 January at all other branches including Bonds, Norwich; Cole Brothers, Sheffield; John Lewis, Bristol. Savings around the store of up to 50 per cent. Many bargains in furnishing fabrics, including John Lewis's own brand Jonelle, and the china department. Reductions on Royal Doulton, Royal Albert, Portmeirion and Spode

Starts 27 December at Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 1234) and hranches nation-

'Blue' Italian ranges.

wide. Join the hordes sniffing out fabric bargains such as printed Armani silk down from £89.95 to £25, Liberty printed silk from £14.95 to £10 and Liberty Veruna wool from £22 to £15. Georgina von Etzdorf velvet scarves are down from £95 vet devoré scarves from £159 to £109. Liberty print watches with plain faces are reduced from £29.95 to £14.95 and Jean Paul Gaultier jewellery is half price. Pewter-framed mirrors are down from £59 tn £29.

Marks & Spencer End-of-season clearance will start 27 December at branches

nationwide. Customer mouries to £60. (0171-935 4422).

Starts 27 December at Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 1234). Armchair browsers can check out sale bargains in Selfridges Selection mail order catalogue, available now (0800 101101). The first week is Sel-Kingshill fridges' busiest of the year. If you choose to join the 85,000 dne through the doors on the first day, expect to find dis-counts from designer labels, furniture and china to carpets. Ladieswear discounts include Max Mara suits from £305 to £152, Betty Jackson jackets from £315 to £157 and Moschino T-shirts down from £49 to £34. Fifty per cent off handbags by DKNY, Fendi and

Osprey. Menswear discounts include up to 50 per cent off Hugo Boss, Nicole Farhi and YSL, CK by Calvin Klein. Laura Ashley Begins 27 December at Thirty per cent off Paul Smith, number 01686 622116. Between 20 and 50 per cent Giorgio Armani coats and Polo Ralph Lauren. off selected items.

> Racing Green Starts 27 December at 193 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 4300), 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835

From 27 December at 100 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 6090. Reductions of

Starts 27 December at Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 6789) and nationwide. Account customers can take advantage embellished bed linen in cream of an extra 5 per cent discount on sale prices on the first three days. Selected merchandise discounted by up to 50 per cent including men's wool coats reduced from £279 to £139, wool jackets from £179 to £129. Women's winter coats down

Austin Reed

50-75 per cent on selected

From 5 January to 27 January. At 344 King's Road, London W3 (0171-352 3697). Good discounts on cashmere and tweed. For example, chunky cable cashmere knits down from £225 to £180, cashmere skinny ribs from £150 to £120, tweed coun-

try coats from £195 to £145.

from £279 to £139.

Starts 4 January at 23-27 South Molton Street (0171-491 7833). Donna Karan dark camel one-button fitted jacket reduced from £1,180 to £600. matching skirt from £425 to £230. Menswear reductions include Browns Own Label suit £570, reduced to £400.

Chanel. Starts 6 January at 26 Old Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 5040); 31 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 6631). Reductions on ready-to-wear collections and shoes of about 30 per cent.

Herbert Juhnson Starts 4 January at 30 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-408 1174). Reductions of 50 per cent on couture hats, casual hats 25 per cent off and accessories 30 per cent off. Pull-on felt hat down from £105. to £79. Men's hats reduced by up to 60 per cent,

Starts 27 December 77 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-823 9500) Reductions from 30 per cent off.

a felt trilby is down from £95

This mail order sale starts 1 January. Call 01494 890555. British Designer Collections catalogue £7.50, Diffusion catalogue, £3.50. Phones are staffed from 9am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 6pm Saturday; Sundays 7 and 14 Jan 9.30-4.30pm. Sale of designer fashions by mail order means you don't need to leave your armchair to hunt bargains. Half price on Paul Costelloe, Nicole Farhi, Jasper Conran, Jaeger London and Amanda Wakeley.

branches nationwide. Inquiry

2022), Unit F1, Bentall Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames, Sur-

rey (0181-546 2224). A sale catalogue can be obtained from 27 December on 0345 331177. Reductions on selected men's and women's classic items of 30-60 per cent. Men's corduroy trousers from £39 to £25 (PW605), ladies' wool cashmere backing jacket down from £115 to £50,

The Scotch Hause

Starts 27 December at 2 Brompton Road, Knights-bridge, London SW1, 84-86 Regent Street, London W1, and 64 Bucbanan Street, Glasgow. Reductions of 30-40 per cent on good quality cashmere and wool jumpers, for example a gold buttoned cashmere cardigan reduced from £235 to £169. Inquiries on 0171-581

Starts 28 December at 11am, 41 Thomas Neal's, Earlham Street, London WC2 (0171-379 7030). Between 30 and 40 per cent off designer labels and accessories including Clements Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Alberto Biani, Soap Studio, Liza Bruce and Fenn Wright & Manson.

Warehnuse Starts 27 December at 19-21 Argyll Street, London W1 (0171-437 7101) and branches

Wealth of Nations From 31 January while stocks last. Up to 60 per cent off discontinued stock, for example Irish cord workshirts in five colours reduced from £38 to £20. Mail order from Wealth of Nations, Unit 28, The Talina Centre, Bagleys Lane, London SW6 2BW (0171-371 5333).

Starts 27 December at branches throughout the country. Central inquiry number is 01323 649408. Some styles reduced by more than 50 per cent. Church Bellini men's shoes down from £199 to £99, ladies' lily-style high-heeled boot reduced from £120 to £60.

Starts 4 January (midday) at 1-4 King Street, Covent Gar-den, London WC2 (0171-497 1460). Discounts of 25 per cent will be available on selected lines of footwear, clothing and accessories, with possibility of further reductions as the sale

Jones Bootmakers Sale starts 27 December at branches throughout the country. Inquiry number is 01323-

Starts 27 December at 32 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171 240 8148) and branches nationwide. Reductions include court shoes reduced from £79 to £40, pumps £65 to £30 and long

boots from £95 to £50.

Starts 27 December at branches nationwide – already running at 184-188 Oxford Street, London made Avon bed (5ft) reduced from £2,495 to £1,870. W1. Mail order and inquiries on 0171-631 0224. Up to 33 per cent off this season's boots, bags and stiletto-heeled shoes.

Red or Dead Starts 27 December at 1 & 23 Thomas Neal's, Earlbam NW3. Rather than baving a

Street, London WC2 (0171 240 5576) and branches nationwide. General inquiries (0171-937 3137). Selected stock reduced by 50 per cent. Sixtiesstyle knee-length nylon boots in gold, black or rust reduced from £120 to £60.

Small and Tall Shoe Shap

Sale of women's shoes in large or small sizes. Sale for large sizes (8 1/2-111/2) runs from 27 Dec to 6 Jan. Small sizes (121/2-21/2) will be reduced from 10 January to 20 January. 71 York Street, London W1 (0171-723 5321). All current stock will be reduced.

HOMES & INTERIORS

The Conran Shop

Starts 6 January until 21 January at 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401). The Conran Shop is also holding a two-day warebouse furniture sale 6 January (10am-6.30pm) and 7 January (10am-4pm); discounts of balf price are promised along with even lower-priced hargains. There will be courtesy buses running between the shop and the warebouse (Unit 16, Merton Park Estate, Lee Road, London metre to £15.30, wool boucle SW16).

Crucial Trading Sale starts 28 December, ends 28 February. Fifty per cent reduction on certain floor coverings, including Old School Group Coir (now £6.38 per square metre) and Candy Stripe Liquorice Sisal (now £11.15 per square metre). Twenty five per cent off seagrass floorings and a 20 per cent reduction on everything else. Crucial Trading, 77 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (0171-221 9000) and 4 St Barnabas Street, Pimlico Green, London SW1 (0171-221 9000).

Designers Guild

Starts 6 January until 20 January at 267 Kings Road, London SW3 (0171-351 5775). There will also be a warehouse sale on 13-21 Jan at 6 Relay Road, Ariel Way, off Wood Lane, London W12. Reductions on upholstery, bedlinen, cushions, rugs and tableware. Fabric and wallpaper only at the warehouse sale.

The General Trading Company Starts 6 January until 27 January at 144 Sloane Street, London SWI (0171-730 0411) and 27 December at 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225-461507) and 2-4 Dver Street. Cirences-ter (01285-652314). Save up to 30 per cent on this clear-out. Selected cushions reduced from £52.10 to £36.47, quilted cotton bedspreads from £180 to £135 and Kelim stools from £640 to

Heal's Starts 27 December at 196 Tottenham Couri Road, London W1 (0171-636 1666), 234 King's Road and Tunsgate, Guildford. Look for greatly reduced oneoff pieces of furniture that are either shop-soiled, damaged or buyers' samples, along with lit-tle luxuries like a Heal's hand-

Jerry's Hume Store At 163 Fulham Road, SW3; Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1: The Bentall Centre, Kingston-upon-Thames: 57 Heath Street, Hampstead,

EC2 (0171-739 1869). Designer furniture and accessories by Jasper Morrison. Matthew Hilton, Le Corbusier, Mies Van Der Rohe. Discounts of up 10 50 per cent on shop floor mod-cls, and 15 per cent off any other furniture ordered during Victoria & Albert Museum

From 6 to 27 January. At 135-139 Curtain Road, Londor.

Shop Starts 8 January at Cromwell Road, London SW7 (0171-938 8468). Up to 75 per cent off selected lines of replica glasses. plaies, cups and saucers, plaiters, goblet and contemporarystyle vases. Also 50 per cent off selected items of V&A jew-ellery and fashion accessories including earrings, brooches, cufflinks, silk waistcoats and

MISCELLANEOUS

Buyers & Sellers 120-122 Ladbroke Grove, London W10 (0171-229 1947). Dial-a-bargain sale of domestic appliances runs from 27 December until 31 January The idea is that you name the item - brand, model number and ring up for a sale price quotation. Special offers include Neff table dishwashers £189, De Dietrich stainless

steel gas hobs £117. The Charleston Shop

and Gallery Sale 6 and 7 January, 12-5pm. Charleston Gallery/shop. Charleston, near Firle, Lewes. East Sussex (01323-811626). Everything will be reduced by 25-50 per cent. Some seconds of Quentin Bell's ceramics will be available to purchase.

David Mellnr

regular sale, Jerry's are pro-

moting particular "Smart Buys"

in January and February, reduc-

ing the prices of classic Amer-

ican kitchen and home wares.

invited to telephone 0171-581

Starts 28 December, ends 13

January. At Crossways, Church,

Farnham, Surrey (01428 714014). Sells decorative bath-room and kitchen objects.

Some massive discounts,

including complete marble

bathroom suites reduced from

Starts 3 January. Sell flooring

by mail order from Natural

Flooring Direct, PO Box 8104. London SE16 4ZA (0800 454

721). Ten per cent off all stock,

plus free fitting, free underlay

and free sight survey. For exam-

ple, coir natural panama

reduced from £16.99 per square

reduced from £20.99 per square

Starts 8 January at 46 Goodge

Street, London W1 (0171-580

6921). Discounts of up to 50 per

cent off a large range of iron

and brass candlesticks and off selected fabrics. Price of plaid

Runs from 28 December until

21 January at stores around

the country. Customer inquiries 0171-351 7100.

Christmas merchandise is

reduced to clear. Other mer-

chandise at half price or less

includes china ranges, marble

kitchen ware, selected terra-

Starts 27 December at 80-81

and 83 Tottenham Court Road.

London W1 (0171-580 8223).

Up to 40 per cent off ex-display

and discontinued lines. Special

orders will be reduced by 10 per

cent on items over £500.

cotta and a range of vases.

Purves & Purves

fabric halved to £6.30.

metre to £18.99.

Nice Irma's

The Pier

Natural Flooring Direct

£2,500 to £800.

0909 for a catalogue.

Sale starts 6 January for two weeks at 4 Sloane Square, London SW1 (0171-730 4259). Dis-For example, there's 24 per cent off the American Diner "Gibraltar" tumbler (now £2.25), 34 per cent off their white rag rug, now £5.95; 27 per cent off their popcorn popper. now £19.95. Customers are britted to believe to \$12.551 counts range from 10 per cent on all standard kitchen mer-chandise, including kitchen knives and tools, pottery and porcelain, glassware and coffeemakers. Twenty per cent off most of the David Mellor range of cutlery. For real bargainbunters, up to 90 per cent dis-count on odds and ends ol slightly damaged or soiled merchandise. It's worth noting that David Mellor only has a sale once a year.

Mulberry Hall

Runs 4 January until 3 February at Stonegate, York (01904-620736). Splash out on famous names such as Wedgwood. Spode and Royal Worcester at discounts of 30 per cent while seconds in Royal Doulton. Minton and Royal Crown Derby are half the normal price. A dinner service for 10 in Spode's 'Chancellor Cobalt' design is reduced from £2,395 to £1,595. A tea set for 10 in the same design is reduced from £1,235 to £825.

The Pukka Palace Sale starts 28 December, ends

28 January. Twenty per cent off their Anglo-Indian furniture and accessories, such as leather safari suitcases and solar topis. Pukka Palace, 174 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 (0171-234 0000).

Starts 27 December through to the end of January at 188 Kensingon High Street, London W8 (0171-937 0872) and branches nationwide. Savings of 10 per cent off all accessories and ski boots with selected items substantially reduced.

From 1 January to 14 February. At 124 Walcot Street, Bath (01255469455). Ring for other branches. Up to 50 per cent off good-quality toys. For example, puppet theatre reduced from £17.99 to £12.99, wooden Timba game from £9.95 to £6.99, crystal radio from £6.95 to £5.95. Postage & packing for mail-order sale items will be reduced to £1.95.



Hopes of a bumper 1995 for bids were realised spectacularly, with a provisional £70bn worth of deals done, writes Magnus Grimond

Record year for takeovers and mergers

of history, industrial logic was to be the new mantra

vengeance, as British companies chalked up £70bn worth of takeovers and mergers by late

A provisional 1995 estimate from the magazine. Acquisitions Monthly puts the last peak of £47.2bn in 1989 into the shade and pitches last year's £24.8bn into outer darkness. Around £950m of the money that changed hands is estimated to have stuck to the sticky fingers of merchant banks, lawyers, stockbrokers and public relations people, making it easily the best year ever for City advisers.

The omens were propitious from the start, as companies sur-viving the recession rushed to spend the liquidity built up during the recovery - even if the stock market gave little encouragement, ending 1994 below where it had started. Just 23 days into the new year, the record-breaking £9.1hn bid for Wellcome by its rival Glaxo was a giveaway that 1995 was going to be a vintage year.
Unlike the freewheeling

1980s, however, the motivation behind the big deals has changed in the more puritan

parently consigned to the dustbin of history, it was not difficult to see that asset stripping and accounting magic would no longer be the driver of the urge to merge - at least not in public.

Instead, industrial logic was to be the new mantra of the politically correct City, with pharmaceuticals, financial services and the privatised water and electricity utilities picked out as ripe for rational

of Fisons by Rhone-Poulenc

Rorer, the creation of Glaxo

Wellcome put two pharmaceu-

ticals deals into the top five of

the year. Glaxo spoke of the need to cut bloated research

and development costs, stream-

line management and pack a

higger punch. Following the

takeover. Glazo became the

world's higgest drug company. but its market share only edged

ahead to a still pretty unim-

pressive 5 per cent or so.

and rejuvena-

was. With the £1.8bn takeover

And thus it

the bid. He eventually squeezed isation, reform

former Bowater (now Rexam) out the sick man of the drugs sector. Slaying one of the most sacred cows of the industry. Mr Wallis sold off most of Fisons' research and development operations as part of a strategy which all but doubled the price of the shares, levering them up from a low of 105p even hefore

ing the bid to 265p and leaving Fisons' shareholders plenty to

he pleased about after years of

lt also won Mr Wallis a new

reputation as a corporate turn-round artist, but even he was not

able to reverse the currently re-

ceived wisdom that medium-

sized pharmaceuticals groups such as Fisons will be squeezed

in the new world divided he-

tween giants like Glaxo Well-

come and minnows, like the new

biotech companies which

Test your knowledge of the past year's

triumphs and disasters.

Compiled by Simon Pincombe

fence under Smart Wallis, the caught the imagination of the stock market so spectacularly

industrial logic argument held sway was financial services. Having seen 120,000 jobs go in the last six years, it is hard to see can come. But Lloyds Bank's agreed £6.1hn marriage with TSB - the second-biggest deal of the year - was seen as a fura higher offer out of RPR, tak-ther move in the tidying up of House, which hlazed the trail with its £1.2bu

the banking industry.

There was also a little local

flurry of enthusiasm by foreigners for some of the City's proud-est names. Having failed to consummate a tie with Morgan

Stanley of the US five months

earlier, SG Warburg succumbed ignominuously to Swiss Bank Corporation for £860m. The level to which the once-mighty

Warburg had sunk was graphi-

cally illustrated in June, when Kleinwort Benson, relegated to the second division of the mer-

One sector drew more than its fair share of the takeover fire last year, and industrial logic was hard to discern in the thinking of most of the hidders. The electricity industry and its healthy cash flows became ripe for the picking as the Government's golden shares in the 12 regional electricity companies fell away from March. Trafalgar

tilt at Northern With conglomerates apparently assigned to the dusbin to pull out of the

elation of its own parlous fi-nancial position giving a strong clue as to its reasoning. The irony of its situation was underlined as the result in July of the electricity price review prompted by the Trafalgar hid was taken as the green light for a motley collection of other raiders to enter the

They poured across the border from the north as Scottish Power launched a £1bn assault on Manweb, the distributor for Merseyside and North Wales,

visers was publicly rebuked for breaching the Takeover Code and fired by its client?

17 1995 was a year of currency tur-bulence. Which of the following ex-

change rates has fallen the most in the

past 12 months, and which the least?

other major currencies?

(a) sterling's effective index against

(b) the Mexican peso against the

(c) the Italian lira against the Ger-

(d) the US dollar against the Yen

18 Who bought the Queen's jewellers,

19 The industrial nations started to

tackle their hudget deficits in 1995 -

leading to a government shutdown in

the US and demonstrations on the

streets of Paris. Which OECD country

has the biggest government deficit as a proportion of GDP?

20 The Wellcome trustees were not popular when they pledged their 39.5 per cent of the company to Glazo dur-ing the £9.4hm takeover hid in Febru-

ary. Some were personally threatened.

21 Whose shares jumped from just un-

der £5 in the summer to over £26 ear-

22 Wall Street hit numerous suc-

cessive highs this year. But what was

the most spectacular performing

23 What is the average punt on the

24 Who produced a report which led

to a snap change in the taxation of share

options, a humiliating government climbdown, and drove its author to wear

an apron bearing the words "If you can't

stand the heat, get out of the kitchen

when he appeared before the Commons

employment select committee?

What form did the threat take?

lier this month? And why?

share?

National Lottery?

Asprey's?

chant banking sector, gave up its independence for £977m. and from across the seas, with independence for £977m. Southern Company - America's Southern Company - America's biggest power utility - also of-

fering film, this time for South
Western Electricity.
As the turkey shoot continued, a water company, North
West Water, was drawn into the fun and games, eventually see-ing off another group of US predators to secure Norweb for £1.8bn in the sixth higgest deal of the year.
With all this action, the old

guard of conglomerates and would-be contenders were clearly itching to get involved. Hanson, already unloved, failed to win back many admirers by hitching itself to Eastern Electricity in a £2.4bn deal. Its share price remained becalmed on a

three-year low.
Meanwhile, Gerry Robinson clearly showed himself keen to emulate Lord Hanson's achievement as he watched his share price go backwards after his Granada Group dropped its £3.3bn bombshell on Porte, the Savoy to Happy Eater group. When the dust settled, that turned out to be potentially the third biggest deal of the year, al-though the outcome remains far



John Eisenhammer recalls a traumatic year for the City

sectors picked out as ripe for rationalisation

The fuse is lit for Big Bang's second stage

Nick Leeson lit the fuse of Big corporate finance, once the sector, too, businesses have Bang Two. The explosion did envy of City, is struggling, with been merging across traditionnot just sink one of the City's grandest merchant banking vessels, but unleashed shock waves that are still reverberating across the financial services

They became caught up in other convulsions, in intense competitive pressures, in a surge for size through mergers and takeovers to maximise clout and cost-saving potential, in a push to serve a broad range of markets and products.

It is a very different City that exits 1995 from the one that entered; certainly it is more foreign, and the transformation is far from over. The shake up in investment banking still has to run its course. But it is to buildmanagers and retail banks that the focus of attention is more likely to turn. Big Bang Two looks like having several stages, and some have yet to begin in

Fate and fraud did for Barings. But however much the collapse was explained away as a freak happening, it crystallised the concerns in investment banking circles about whether the medium-sized houses which dominated the City had the re-sources to punch with the US and Continental giants. What followed were the rapid-fire takeovers of some of the City's household names by hig bal-ance-sheet foreign hanks.

One of the sweeter ironies is that 1995's most spectacular failure ended the year as one of its successes. Dutch-based ING outwitted several of its betterknown rivals to snatch Barings for £1 and, with sensitivity, has

refloated the wreck.
But where ING's absorption of Barings can already be judged a success, it is far too soon make such claims for Swiss Bank Corporation's envy of City, is struggling, with morale in tatters amidst clashing cultures. One of the UK's finest franchises will look much poorer by the middle of 1996, as product takes precedence

over relationships.
Warburg had tried, with insufficient resources, to take on the Wall Street behemoths, and failed. A sharp appreciation of this same dilemma prompted Kleinwort Benson to agree to be-ing taken over by Dresduer Bank, Germany's second largest, and Smith New Court to vanish into Merrill Lynch of the US.

This leaves a heavy question mark over the remaining City independents, like Schroders,

What followed were the rapidfire takeovers of some of the City's household names

Flemings and Rothschilds. They have received plenty of expressions of interest, not least from NatWest Group, which is keen to build up its corporate finance and fund management clout, but which has missed out spectacularly on all the main deals;

But the sizeable family stakes give these remaining merchant banks a strong defence, and they may well thrive as focused and nimble international players among the giants, as long as they keep their hubris - and costs under control

Unlike Big Bang One, this has not been a top-down regulator's revolution, but rather one driven by the pressure of the street. It has been the year of the all-singing, all dancing fitakeover of Warburgs. The se-curities side, which is what SBC was really after, is thriving. But

nancial services conglomerate.

This has not just been in in-vestment banking. In the retail clients and distribution, and the ability to offer products spanning banking, investment,

pensions and insurance.
Lloyds Bank's takeover first of
Cheltenham & Gloucester building society and then TSB bank was the sharpest pointer to the sharpe of things to come. Abbey National's hostife grapple for National & Provincial left all building societies, for so long cosseted in a world of tradition and municity, feeling vulnera-ble. Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich are expected in the New Year to abandon mutuality; converting to bank status in order to prepare for growth, while Prudential, is to move

the insurance sector, appears headed in a smallar direction. The composites, led by Sun Alliance and Commercial Union, are also eyeing each other, but too many big egos are blocking the merger pathway. Perhaps, if the Lloyd's of London cloud of uncertainty hanging over the insurance sector is lifted by a settlement in the spring then one of the giant Continental insurers, like Allianz or Axa, will finally make the long-expected move, setting the acquisition train rolling. -Even the Japanese are back, darkening the doors of City merchant banks with questions

about picking up fund management businesses. The sale of Gartmore, almost certainly to: a foreign house, is to be com-pleted in the New Year and will not be the last.

... The year 1995 in the City has marked by foreign invasion. But at least the surge of inward investment confirmed London's position as the world's most international financial centre, and the undisputed financial capital of Europe. For all the traumas, as the year closed, the City appeared to be thriving as rarely before.

Forte restaurant sale could thwart bid

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

Granada is set to come under intense pressure this week, as its where your arm is twisted bebid target, Forte, pushes ahead with plans to sell off its restaurant business to Whitbread. the food and drink giant, for nearly £1bn.

The sale, which insiders at Forte yesterday confirmed could come within two weeks, has emerged as the key plank in Forte's controversial defence against Granada's unwanted £3.3bn bid.

A deal with Whitbread could complicate the Forte bid situation dramatically. Any sale would have to be put to shareholders, and that might not be hold their authorisation, and possible before the crucial day choose instead to accept the 39 of the bid period, after which published. It is also possible that Granada may ask the Takeover Panel to intervene.

last night. A spokesman sug-gested that "this might not be the best time to be selling assets. hind your back". He said, how-ever, that the company would wait for further details on the

proposed sale. Granada had planned to keep the restaurant business, largely made up of the Happy. Eater and Little Chef chains. Forte operates 26 roadside service sites, branded as Welcome Break, and a network of 55 sites in France, under the Cote France brand.

If a deal with Whitbread is reached, Granada will have to hope Forte shareholders with-

would leave it with its hotel operations, had been given a mixed reaction in the City. But analysis concede the demerger plan is clever, as it could remove from the equation the very as-sets—namely the restaurants— that attracted Granada's at-

tention in the first place. A sale of the restaurant opcrations would substantially reduce Forte's dehis. The company is also working on dis-posing of its cliain of White Hart hotels, and last week confirmed the sale of its US Travelodge ho-tels for £114m.
Granada's offer has been

justified by its chief executive. Gerry Robinson, on the grounds that the Forte assets had been badly managed, and television and lessure company's that Granada could release fresh financial details cannot be hostile hid. But for that to hap shareholder water. He and his pen, Granada is likely to have executives have promised to imto up its offer, perhaps by as prove Forte's profits by £100m

What was so great about 1995?

1 Who was Mary Ellen Synon referring to in March when she said: "I kept everything Roo touched - the envelopes on which he wrote my name, the ribbons that were tied around the books he gave me, even the leaders he wrote in The Economist ... I found him divine in everything."

Quiz

- 2 Which departing chairman was forced to remove his personal belongings from his office at four o' clock on a February morning?
- 3 Which regulator wiped £4.25bn off the value of shares in his sector and prompted one overseas institution to describe the City as "a financial banana



- 4 Who lost his employer \$1.1bn? Was it:-(a) Toshihide Iguchi tb) Nick Leeson (c) Kenneth Clarke
- 5 Who lost his employer \$1.33hn? Was
- (a) Toshihide Iguchi (h) Nick Leeson (c) Kenneth Clarke.
- 6 Which actor does Nick Leeson want to play the role of Nick Leeson in the forthcoming Hollywood movie of the Burings disaster?
- 7 Who said of whom: "We would welcome them back - they have my phone



- 8 Which Bank of England official failed (a) Eddie George (b) Rupert Pennant-Rea
- 9 Which "fat cat" proved the last straw for the Government, sending Tim Eggar incandescent" with rage when he insisted on collecting an extra £200,000 through a "special dividend"?
- 10 Which chief executive gave up

lederation of British Industry's investi-

& Spencer chairman, who led the Con-

24: Sir Richard Greenbury, the Marks

57bn, more than established computer

giving it a capitalisation of more than

in a day and now stands at about \$130,

at \$28 a share, soured to above 570 with-

22 Netscape, a new company producing software for the Internet. It was dosted

21 British Biotechnulogy - after une ul

ureme measures demand extrems

gation into boardroom salaries.

23 £2 a week

"elazngən

troups such as Apple.

tumours in their tracks.

Images of 1995: Nick Leeson (above) with (small pictures clockwise from top left) Kenneth Clark, Asprey's, the Ritz and Eddie George

11 What happened when David Jones. accountants personally liable for?

chief executive of Sharelink, accused the London Stock Exchange of exploiting its monopoly powers on a BBC radio programme? The LSE had refused to supply real-time share prices over the

firm Binder Hamlyn carlier this month? And how much are each of the 16 Which firm of public relations ad-

12 How much in damages did the High Court award against the accountancy 15 Who bought the Ritz?

13 Who collapsed at the Maxwell trial after delivering the immortal line: "I'm sorry M'Lud this really isn't working..."?

14 Which famous US lawyer took tea with the Maxwell trial judge?

The answers

bed "sorobhow svissed glemion" sti sive substance. The letter accused the trustees of a "sell-out and warned that 20 The trustees were sent a threatening letter and a phial containing an explo-

deficit in 1994, France -6 per cent. cent 1993). US had -2 per cent of GDP by Sweden 1-10.4 per cent 1994, -7.3 per mated at -9.5 per cent in 1995), fullowed 19 Greece (-11.4 per cent in 1994, estiister of Brunei.

cent against the yen). 18: Prince Jefri Bolkiah, the finance minfell 7.7 per cent. The dollar has risen I per its cancer drugs was found to stup some (c) - fall of 6.4 per cent (Sterling's index construction company, Amer.
17 Most (b) — fall of 55.6 per cent. Least: 16 Financial Dynamics were fired by the uever resorted to furce, but added "ex-

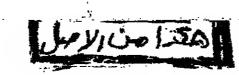
14 O.J Simpson's lawyer, Johnny Cochran 15 The Barclay twins. 13 Michael Hill, QC. 12 £105m and around £250,000 each. (unly to climb down two weeks later). 11 The LSE sued him for delamation shire Mater (so be said). 10 Trenor Newton, chief executive of York-National Grid. 9 David Jeffries, chief executive of the rise in May.

cellor overruled his request for a base rate 8 (a) Eddie George - when the Chankey Warburg players defect to other UK investment bank which saw many 7 Marcel Ospel, chief executive of SBC Visuburg, following SBC's takeorer of the

opera essenders. G. Vick Berry, formerly of the BBC soap who perpetrated the biggest inancial scandal ever on any soil. (a) Tochibide Ignebi, the Daiws Bank trader who perpetrated the biggest In-nancial scandal ever on American soil. (b) Nick Leeson, the Barings trader 5 (b) Nick Leeson, the Barings trader

cackdown on electricity prices on the first day of dealings in National Power and tricity regulator, when he annou 3 Professor Stephen Littlechild, the elec-

he foonded with his brother. and substanties Santchi on leaving the firm signed after their affair became public. ernor of the Bank of England, who re-



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From seaguils and trawlers to 57 old farts and Neanderthal Man. Rob McLean trawls through the sports quotes of 1995

The year of the sardine



'When seagulls follow a trawler it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea' -Eric Cantona in March, after winning his appeal at Croydon Magistrates Court against a six-week prison sentence following his conviction for assault Photographs: PA

He wants to keep people guess- I would not change anything, manager, on the crowd riot at the ing because he thinks he is bet- nothing at all, I am not always match against England in Dublin. striker accused same Millwall ter than everyone else. Basically in sea terms, he is saying he is bigger than the average sardine. It's my nature lo react the way Raj Persaud, psychologist.

cuse the expression. Zebin Bo- with it. Cantona. iko, a leading ångling writer It was one of the most amazing things I have ever seen on a football ground. It does not matter how you are provoked by the

wronged and the referee is do-wall hooligan ran on the pitch and ing nothing about it. Then he re-threatened the Sheffield Wednessolves to exact his own justice, day goalleeper.
which is madness of course: It was simply a typing error.
Alex Ferguson, Cantona's Carlisle United spokesman. manager at Manchester United. Eric's problems can only be solved by Eric. Bobby Charlton. The Cantona situation cost us the double that got away I would have cut off his testicles.

Brian Clough. He has lit up my football watching and that's what if is all about. I would pay to go and watch

It's a red herring, if you will ex- with people who are not happy Genius is about digging yourself

out of this big hole which you find yourself in, or in which oth-. I threw the water because the ers have put you. That's genius. Genius is not about complain-

used to you, you have to be lam very worried. There is alabove it. It is untellevable and ways a potential John Lennon inexcusable. Gary Lineker, former England captain, on Cantona's kung-ju kick.

It nearly always happens when he has decided he has been; chief executive, after o Millwronged and the referee Scionwill heofeon you on the mich and

after the club's Information Line gave the advice: "When giving oral sex, don't blow. It can be danger-

everything. Ferguson reflects on Perhaps I shouldn't have got involved, but we have a few wild ones, and when I saw this guy running at the English sup-porters with something in his hand, I grabbed him and lold him to piss off. Jack Chorl-

pleased with myself, but that's

I went in and got hold of him,
the way I am. Cantona.

Let us the man and got hold of him,
but when there's spittle running down the side of your face it's hard not to want to do something about it. Grohom Toy-lor, then Wolves manager, who was spat at by a fan in o match against Sheffield United:

Don King: "I'm God's child. He put me here to help quiet while I'm talking

Maradona, then coach of Racing Club, sent off after throwing a water bag at an official. The man is obviously a few sandwiches short of a picnic and it caused our club a lot of anx-

You are the most corrupt offi-cial in the game. Tarango ta Re-ter a fight with Chris Eubank three fans of being racist.

What happened on Sunday was an ordinary story of hate among teenage brats. Jean-Claude Bras, president of French side Red Star, on the murder of a fan in Paris. I want the chance to prove I'm not Neanderthal Man, just a man who wants a second linesman seemed deaf. Diego chance. John Sitton, the sucked

Mike Tyson to King: 'Be

coach in a TV documentary. Call the supervisor, please, I've got a hig heef. Jeff Tarango, American tennis player, starts his tirade against umpire Bruno

beuh prior to being disqualified. I feel like a victim. That is probahly the word I would use...used and ahused. I go to the chiropractor three times a week. He says I am so stressed out he can't even turn my neck. I can't believe he did that at

cial in the game. Tarango ta Re-

Wimbledon. He may be in for a big vacation. John McEnroe on the incident.

I was afraid for my life. He was wild. He was absolutely out of control. I was so frightened of this raging maniac. Eleonor Weinstein, McEnroe's neighbour in a New York apartment block, tho had o row with the former onopolising the building's lift. What are you going to do about it, put a knife in my hack? Andre Agassi after being confronted by a fan at the Hamburg

You have to go to war and in war you have to be prepared to die. That's what boxing is. Gerald McClellan, before his WBC super middleweight fight with Nigel Benn, which resulted in brain surgery for McClellan. I felt sick. A cold shiver ran through me. I just wanted lo get

oul of the stadium. Michael

team who have been briked to lose matches. Aamir Sohoil, Pakistan Test batsman. This is the first time a referee incompetent and negligent. I

years ago, on the same fight.

I can't take any more, I just

can't. When I get this season over, that's it for me. I'm fin-

ished. You are not just fighting

the American athletes, you

have got to fight inside your own

camp as well. Linford

There are assassins in the world.

People who hide behind buses

when you jump out into the

snow. Then there are character

Tyson has no real choice but to

made him \$16m in the last two

fights when he wasn't even

champion. How else is he go-

ing lo pay for more Lam-borghinis and Cadillacs? By

going lo college? Don King. If I wasn't bound by a code of

players in the present Pakistan

asked him to move from the line

of sight and he wouldn't. Alex

Higgins, after losing 10-5 in the qualifying stages for snooker's Embassy World Championship.

killers. Mike Tyson.

'Lomu is a freak'

THE OVAL REVOLUTION

Everyone seems to do very well out of rugby except the players. It has become more than a fun game. You do not have a World Cup for fun. If the game is run properly as a professional game, you do not need 57 old farts running rugby. Will Carling on the Rugby Football Union, remarks which resulted in his temporary sacking as captain of England. Personally I took no objection

to being called an old fart, but as England captain he should know how to behave. Denis Easby, RFU president, who sneked Corling.

I'm disgusted. I can't quite take it in. What Will said was simply what an awful lot of people think about the guys running the game. Dick Best, former Eng-The decision has been made, I

reversed. Eashy.
It is feasible that he could be given back his captaincy. Easty, on He's a freak - and the sooner

He's on a hig ego trip with no consideration for English rugby at all. Brian Hanlon. coaching director of Bristol, on Sir John Hall, chairman of Newcastle United FC, who took over the city's rug-

by un ion club.

Playing against the French is like facing 15 Eric Cantonas. Brian Moore, former England I used to hate watching rugby

league on television. It was violent, slow and just dreadful. We all thought it was a joke sport.

Martin Offiah, Great Britain's winger who used to play rugby unian.

I'm 49, I've had a hrain haemorrhage and a triple bypass and I could still go out and play a reasonable game of rugby uni-ion...but I wouldn't last 30 seconds in rugby league. Graham Lowe, former Wigan coach. Someone from rugby league should have bought him before

the World Cup started. Jack stand by it - and there is no Rowell, England manager, on chance whatsover that it will be Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand player who ended England's World Cup hopes.

reinstoting Carling three he goes away the better. Car-

'The nightmare will never fade'

WOMEN'S TALK

The nightmare will never fade. me a long time. It was eating me alive. I'd go out on the court, I could he playing great tennis and it would all start coming back. I'd say 'I can't do lhis'. Monica Seles, a few days before her return to tennis ofter box for me. I'm the man who 27 months in an exhibition match against Martino

Navratilora. I still can't believe I'm actually doing this and I'm actually here. It's like a dream. It's so exciting. It's what I love to do, it's I'm not fat. I know that I'm not all I've ever asked for. Seles on fat. If I look at any Joe Bloggs conduct. I could name so many her return.

Getting old sucks. You set up the point just right, you have the open-court volley you would make with your eyes closed 10 years ago, and I'm concentral- McColgan, the British athlete, is has brought me to tears. He is ing like hell and I still miss it. not fat - it's official. Navratilova in retirement. Women shouldn't keep blam- metres. Sally Gunnell gets

ing the men for the state of corried away with Australian women's sport. Men aren't Cathy Freeman's poor finish in trying to hold us back, the fact the 400m final at the Warld is sportswomen need more Championships in Gothenburg.

more support from women viewers. Sharron Davies, TV gludiator and former

staunch supporter of doping controls in sport. Diane Modahl, after her successful appeal against a positive doping test.

I said to the owners, the Johnsons, they'd be mad to run this horse in the National. He's been a nightmare to train. If any horse in the yard has problems, nine times out of 10 it's Alfie, as Royal Athlete is known. Jenny Pitman, after Royal Athlete's victory in the Grand No-

walking down the street. I know I'm not fat compared to them. But in terms of the skin and bone athlete, the distance run-

Literally, she died in the last 50

'I'm an alcoholic. My life was going nowhere

AND SLEAZE

Arsenal manager, on the John Jensen transfer bung scandal. Graham accepted the money then repaid it. It's just a question of determining intent: what he took it for. Steve Coppell, of the Premier League's commission

again I would definitely say no, chief executive of the Premier peats it. Clough, talking about no no George Graham, former League, puts Graham on the Alan Sugar's High Court allega-I've never met the agent. The ing the Teddy Sheringham only time I spoke to him on the transfer deal. telephone he was chuntering on about a prohlem with a work commits a financial irregulari-

AND SLEAZE

There may be a fair bit of pain to go through yet and I don't hig enough and gets a hloody show why I feel like the man shave and doesn't walk like a greedy. If it was offered me who shot Bambi. Rick Parry, spiv, then I'll sue him if he re
Hardman, Swindon Town chairtions that he took a "bung" dur-

permit. Brian Clough denies any ty then they should he sacked and that club should be pun-

BUNGS, DRUGS investigating corruption in foot—Danish agent involved in the ished, as we were in 1990 when reduce the debt to sensible lev
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BUNGS, DRUGS investigating corruption in foot—Danish agent involved in the ished, as we were relegated. But it is clear els. Malcolm Macdonald, former Rugby League went and tested.

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BUNGS investigating corruption in foot—Danish agent involved in the ished, as we were relegated. But it is clear els. Malcolm Macdonald, former Rugby League went and tested. one for the smaller ones. Ray I've started to grow up now. I've

> He refused to let the players go to hed if he was losing money during a late-night gambling session. One time he owed me around £400 or so. He desperately wanted to play one-card turnovers for £230 a shot. I be-

England striker, remembers Peter Shilton's gambling problems. got the choice of going back to the booze and gambling or to go the other way. It's up to me now. I am an alcoholic. My life was going nowhere. Paul Merson, the Arsenal footballer faces up to the future after six weeks in a rehabilitation clinic for treat-ment for alcohol and gambling ad-

10 players from each team playing at the moment, they would find it very hard to get full sides out in the field. Blind eyes have been turned everywhere. Jamie Bloem, Doncaster full-back who was tested positive for anabolic steroids and banned for two years. I've heard that there are twowell known footballers - nothing to do with West Ham or caught and are heavily into 'so-

It must have been a misunderstanding; or if not a genuine misunderstanding, a trap. Diego

Maradona reaffirms his innocence of deliberately taking drugs at the 1994 World Cup. The mistake I made was not getting the hell out of the hotel bar

about two hours earlier than I did and going straight to bed. Vinnie Jones, in trouble after biting the nose of a journalist.

reacting to the news of the Chelsea footballer's three-month jail sentence for assaulting n taxi driver. Leave my hero alone. Eric Hall to photographers as Wise left court after being sentenced.

I have spoken to many taxi drivers and the majority are saying they will not pick him up. Bob Oddy, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association. I could have been a bank robber if it hadn't been for football,

'I think he made a bit of a prat of himself'

ATTACK OF THE VERBALS

He is a product rather than a person. Damon Hill on Michael Schumacher.

It was dangerous and unsport-ing. I think be did it deliberately and if he does it again I know what to do. Schnmacher attacks Hill for dangerous driving at the French Grand Prix. It's total hypocrisy. There is one

rule for him and another for the rest of us. Hill on Schumacher ofter the Pacific Grand Prix.
It is difficult because he is too moody and I have problems with moody people. But it would be a great gesture for the German fans to be fair to Hill and appland him. Schumach-

er on Hill before the German I think he made a bit of a pral of himself. Frank Williams, Williams-Renault team hoss, on Hill's collision with Schumacher at the British Grand Prix.

progress of a team. Schumacher, then Benetton Na 1, on the prospect of teaming up with Nigel Mansell. He is wet behind the ears. He Ken Bates, and I'll still be a fan

is not a businessman in the accepted sense of the word. I once Harding. thought we were the dream tick- I can't tell you what's going on et. I saw him as my successor but in the man's mind, it's a very funnot anymore. Ken Bates, Chelsea my mind. Bates. chairman, on his rival for control of the club, director Matthew

I don't give a damn about being chairman. All I know is at the moment we have the wrong chairman. Harding. I can forgive one lapse, hut not the kind of behaviour he has

demonstrated over the two years he has been here. Put it this way - Matthew Harding has no redeeming features. Bates Ive been watching Chelsea from outside the director's box for 31 of the last 33 years, so it's hardly going to kill me. I have 12 season tickets in the front row of the upper tier. Harding, banned from the directors' box by

chairman Ken Bates. After what has gone on, what face but said unpleasant things about me hehind my back. Bates. I was a fan for 20 years before

20 years after he has gone.

I know this is a personal question, but are you aware that your shorts are slightly transparent? Reparter to Andre Agassi. No, hut apparently you are. Agassi.

Manchester United not only have the best players, they have the hest referees as well. Sam Hammam, Wimbledon chairman, after his club were beaten by I almost wanted Howard

think Leeds deserve to be in the Premier League. You can feel the hatred, their fans were awful. Alex Ferguson, Manchester United manager. If you want to lose your life

Wilkinson's team relegated hecause of their fans. I don't I would have been jailed. John McEnroe on the Henman inci-

that's up to you. Chris Eubaak warns Steve Collins before their world title fight.



He sent me off in his usual Hitler fashion. He's a dreadful referee who is typical of the standard we have faced all season.' Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, sent off by Robbie Hart against Menchester United.

Taxi To Wait. Bannerat the third Test in Sydney. It was a complete accident hut I'm responsible for my actions. Tim Henman, after being disqualified for hitting a ball girl with a ball. If I'd done that at Wimhledon

He's supposed to be one of our hest, and he should he there for players to talk to, not to be a little Hitler. lan Wright, the Arsenal striker, on referee David

you need to be happy?' THE GOOD GUYS

I watched the ball go over in disbelief. Rob Andrew on the kick that beat Australia in the World Cup quarter-final. I had to come up with some-

thing. I owed the lads one after putting South Africa into bat and seeing that move not work out. Michael Atherton, after his innings of nearly 11 hours which saved the second Test against South Africa.

I'll remember it for a long, long time, and I'm going to get pissed. Tomorrow we're visiting a vineyard, so I'll probably get pissed again. Atherton, after England's first Test victory in Australia for eight years.

If any of my opponents had done what I did today I would have thought they were on drugs. Jonathan Edwards after breaking the world triple jump record twice at the World Cham-

I don't know if I was all that good. I never saw myself play, so how do I know? Sir Stanley Matthews, who celebrated his 80th birthday this year.

ruption. Pele, the newly sworn-in Minister of Sports, who remem-bered that in 1972 the military government wanted to use his image in a football tournament to gain popular support for the

'How much money do

People will say I have a screw loose, that I've lost it, but perhaps it's just that I am in the 0.1 per cent of footballers who doesn't give a toss about unlimited money. Matthew Le Tissier, explains why he stays at Southampton. It doesn't look like I try very

hard to get the ball back. Le Tissier speculates on why he is being left out of the England squad. I simply wasn't prepared to commit myself for seven days a week. In any walk of life people want more leisure time. Kenny Dalglish, who stepped down as Blackburn Rovers man-

I'm as patriotic as the next man but I fear they could be embarrassed. Sir Bobby Charlton worries about England's chances

I won't be a pawn in the hands a footballer. It's ridiculous. It's of husiness or government; I'm as far removed as me heing a concert planist. Jimmy Greaves. It brings to an end the most re-markable era in horse racing. Gineer McCain, horse trainer, on the death of Red Rum, three times winner of the Grand Na-tional who died this year.

If anyone could be Michael Jordan for a day, they'd see it's not all it is cracked up to be. I can never be a normal person. Michael Jordan, basketball player and probably the most famous sporting figure in the the United States.

I had 13,000 people supporting me today. That's what won me the match. Britain's Greg Rusedski after his four-set victory over the No 16 seed Guy Forget, of

Those who knock darts think it's easy. Try throwing for double top when your mortgage depends on il. Rod Harrington, at the WDC Championship. I learned about the risks early on. My dad was always going to

One driver.



is just a talented thug. I want him working for England.' Denis Silk, the Test and County Cricket Board chairman, backing the former England Test all-

Council heavyweight title win over Oliver McCall. My head looks like ET gone wrong. Bruno after the fight.
I had four doughnuts on eight and a chocolate chip muffin on 10. I've got more addictions now than when I was drinking. John Daly, the Open champion who is up drinking more than two years

on. My dad was always going to ago. funerals. Damon Hill, Formula I'm tired of the struggle to maintain my riding weight. I will The longest three minutes I've miss riding hut you simply can't in Euro 96. ever known. Frank Bruno on the 20 on forever. Lester Piggott rides into the sunset.

Two top drivers in the same team rarely pays off. They get into fights on and off the track. has been said, I cannot see how They hide information from we can continue to work toeach other and this hinders the gether. He has been more to my If The Poins Bal First, Tell The Elleray.



Dublin can dash grey expectation

King George VI Chase - after the Desert Orchid years, it seems as much a part of Christmas as dyspepsia and hangevers, and although One Man may still have a great deal to prove, as he gallops to post for his first King George this afternoon, the parallels with his famous prodecessor go further than colour and style. At seven, he is the same age as Desert Orchid when he first won the race in 1986, and with such youth and talent on his side. One Man could yet become a fixture to match.

First, of course, he needs to win today, and inspection of the field lined up against him is conclusive proof that celebrities need luck as well as talent. Desert Orchid's good fortune was to be the outstanding chaser of a generally disappointing era, and it must be doubtful whether even one of his four achieved against such a strong hand of rivals. Barton Bank. Merry Gale, Dublin Flyer and last year's (albeit fortunate) winner, Algan, are serious dan-gers, while success for Val D'Alene, Coulton or Brief Gale would hardly qualify as a major

Which begs the question, just how good is One Man? The answer is a little more vague than you might expect of a 2-1 favourite in one of the year's most prestigious races. His most recent success, in the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock, was undeniably impressive, but remarkably this was his first outing outside handicap company since his novice days, and even then he was getting weight from the runner-up. Monsieur Le

KEMPTON

12.45 River North

245 Cheryl's Lad

SIS

HYPERION

PRECAUTIONART INSPECTION: 6.30mm

GOING: Soft
Going and course, Practically that Summ of 200yd.

El Encecourse is on A 100 at Sunbury Bus link from Redimend Underground station. ADMOSSION: Plub \$2.5 Juniors | 16 to 25-year-older| \$16; Grandstand \$15. Silver Ring \$7.
Accommand children under-16 fore. CAR PARK: Members' car park \$5 (limited and
must be pre-banked). Centre car park free.

TILEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: N Benderson - 17 winners from 65 runners grow a success ratio of 20.7% and a profit to a \$1 level stakes of \$13.36; M Pipe - 14 winners, 90 runners, 2 0.7%, +\$22 80; J Gifford - 14 winners, 91 runners, 14.2%, \$10.12; D Nicholson - 12 winners, 10 runners, 13.7%, \$25 0%, 250 0%,

12.45 BONUSPOST NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) C4

FORT TREATS (21) (0) Pot met Partiers | Griffor S 11 5 Pittle

3 TRUETHING (17) -Index Limited May J Perman 4 11 5 Wilders

1 S112 WASTER BEVELED (17) (0) Girs E | Wilders 9 0 5 tens 5 11 5 Octoome

RIVER NORTH (P D Sanit Locy Hernes 5 11 5 Roundon)

8 Boclared - 8 Boclared - 8 Boclared - 8 Boclared - 9 Desert Green, 14-1 Indefence, 33-1 Brazil (P Bust, 100-1 Doubletget Instight

1994: Who I Segment 4 11 0 N Forgers 20-1 (N Metaporson) 11 am

FORM GUIDE

it is teatures the hurding debut of RIVER NORTH, who was distinctly smart on the Flat and

This fortures the hurding debit of RIVER NORTH, who was distinctly strain on the Flat and fice account had backing for the Champion Hurdle. Trained by Lady Herries, who won with juriting debition. Senous at University retently, River North Janded a Listed event at Newmarks and Group One in Germany in 1994, white his sooned five times the previous year, influence the Scottisch Classac at Art. He acts well in soft ground, will have been schooled for this and Richard Durwoody is booked for the ride. Strainfair, who went in at Newbury of morth on his reappearance and was bearen a counter of lengths by Zephyrus at Challentham, looks the cock of Inose with jumping coprenerse. Tegins was traving his first morth of morth one defecting stress Mill two lengths at Humingson (good to soft) and should projekt in a first his analysis in a remain which also applies to Indefence, there in Crown Equency at Haydook of this horge state so far Masster Boveled, a make you in the level, won his first two races the

1.15 TRIPLEPRINT FELTHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) C4 (Grade 1) £35,000 added 3m Penalty Value

Durthroody worked wonders to keep the partnership intact, after the sur<mark>iyear-old had made</mark> a blunder five fences out. So Far Bold landed the same valuable handicap at Auteuri in Oc-

a hunder five fences out. So Far Bold landed the same valuable handicap at Auteui in Octoper that stablenate Val D'Alene won last year, and the softer the ground the better for Francis Doumen's numer. Winning point-re-pointer till Mulligan fell on his fencing debut last season, but his confluence restored by two edsy who over mydes, come home by a distinct of Bangor last month. He will find this opposition a vasity different proposition. Feel for Prival minor of a lingh point in 1999, was successful at leavilury 13 months are only an over timber firm Bailey's sevent-reamond has the make and shape of a champion although he has been thrown in at the deep end here.

Selection; HRL OF TURLOW

5-23-31 BOOKCASE (13) (D) "Coast 80) (In: D Ecoort: 8-11 4 A Proctor IX)
F 22222 TEEN JAY (41) (D) (Genes Associated R Strongs 5-11 4 R Strongs

SETTING: 7-4 Chergi's Lad, 5-1 Growing, 10-1 Bookcase, 12-1 Albemine, Keep Me in Mind, Non-Sintage, 14-1 Circu Marta, 16-1 Fourth in Line, Nemeste. Shoofs, Solmah, 20-1 others 1994: Foreg Again 8-10 for James 10-1 of Gar Catio 8 Par-

FORM OUIDE Growing comes here with a 100 per een record, going in at Forgivell and Ayr last term and on a return to the Susser track on his reapplication. He should confirm that latest

Sum with it included Namacsia, who has an 11th advantage for an 11th length belong. Pure is better shift to come from Josh Gifford's runner and he is the main threat to CHERTLE. LAD. The subcloom is unbearen in two artempts this term, scoring easily at Fakenham and forcoming or with a comborable Chellennam success (Dina Maiha and Fourth in Line 20th).

Transmissinght, 10st, True nandidae weights, Secretary Of Stark 9st Bin, Pyramis Prince 9st Te

1.45 BONUSPRINT HANDIGHT INVALUE £7,133

31-313(NON VINTAGE (10) (D) (Rac Marc) M Chapman 4 11 10

1,23 Oc. KINGSPOLD PET (24) (D) (G & Nie, M Haynes 6 11 5....

ALTERO AMANCIO (39) (B) Paul Hillage, G Harvoot 4 11 4......

250-305 ALBERTALE (10) (0) (8F) (George Vaic) Mrs I Cecil 5 11 0

15-550F SHOOPK (10) :Sean Devrey S Dow 4 11 8

BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) C4

F422-12 SHANKAR (18) (D) (BF) finarrational Psycholog Pci D Nicholson 4 11 10 20 SHAZEL OR SUST (311) (Mis C 4 Wasses P Westber 4 11 5 DESERT GREEN (Mis P Albert R Hammin 6 11 5 SHADE TO THE FORTIFORGET INSIGHT (21) flory Neil C Brons 4 11 5

CG-1 TIGGING (21) (D) Pel mel Partiers I Gifford 5 11 5

2.20 Val D'Alene 2.50 Harwell Lad 3.20 SESAME SEED (nap)

A dashing grey favourite in the **Greg Wood** tips a fearless jumper to topple the King George favourite

> In his previous race, at Ayr, One Man beat Jodami, the 1993 Gold Cup winner, by seven lengths, but received 16lb, making Jodami, who may well he a declining force, the better horse at the weights. His form in the second half of last season was hardly encouraging, either, with falls in two hig races (including the Racing Post Chase over today's course and dis-tance) following his Hennessy victory, achieved under bot-

tom weight of 10 stooe.
This is not to deny that One Man is ao improved performer this season, oor that his chance this afternoon is significant. On the balance of his form, however, he does not deserve to Boxing Day victories was be a 2-1 chance. The value, achieved against such a strong therefore, must lie elsewhere, and more specifically with one of his three main rivals at the top of the market.

Barton Bank is hard to sup-port with confidence after his ast-fence disaster 12 months ago, which leaves Merry Gale and Dublin Flyer. Either should provide a good run for your money, hut since he is at least twice the price of the other leading cooleoders, DUBLIN FLY-ER (nap 2.20), a 10-1 chance with William Hill, demands

His courageous performance wheo winning the Mackeson Gold Cup under 11st 8lb was perhaps the most impressive of the season so far, and he will concede to nothing in terms of hravery at least. Dublin Flyer's fast and impeccable jumping in the novice chase.

might also coax mistakes from several opponents and his odds seriously underestimate his

Novices provide the major points of interest on the undercard, with the opening hurdle in particular pitting some useful performers against highclass recruits from the Flat. River North, a Group One winner on the level, is already a 20-1 chance for the Champion Hurdle in March, but for once it is difficult to mock the bookmakers' caution. Royal Gait and Alderbrook have both graduated from the Flat to beat the best over timber in recent seasons, and the former made his burdling dehut in today's

He did not win, however - he finished secood to Travado and River North could be forgiven for needing time to adjust to a new discipline. The splendidly-named 'Iggins (12.45) could make it a difficult intro-

An exceptional field for the Feltham Novices' Chase includes Major Summit, Mr Mulligan and Master Orchestra, whose brother is the King George absentee and Gold Cup hope Book Of Music, but Hill Of Tullow (1.15) looks best of all. Cheryf's Lad (1.45) will he no sort of price hut is hard to oppose in the handicap burdle, while Simple Arithmetic (oext best 2.50) stands out in the Wayward Lad Novices' Chase.

The feature eveot in the oorth is the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby, with Jodami and Young Hustler among the entries. At the weights, though. Lo Stregone (2.20) has every chance, as does his stablemate Ask Tom (2.50)

soundly beaten). Cheryf's Lad looks likely to get even better and a hat-trick is on the cards. Non Vintage, after beating Subtrine Fellow four lengths at Ascot (Shoofit, Magisteld Pet and Assancio all well beaten) ran an excetent race from 2-4b outside the handicap when going under nail a length and the same behind Padre Mio and Chef Minister in the Pighting Fifth at Newcastle, He finished baled off in the Long Welk Hurdle on a return to Ascot (3m 11 110)ds) but will be happier back at this minimum trip. Beakcase got up on the post to pip Neep Me in Minist at Dezer and there should again be Ittle between them a difference of a pound, Both should have nothing to feer from Secretary Of State (beaten 40 lengths in seventh). Bookcase earlier had Alberdine (seventh) and keep Me in Mind in arrears when third to Chief's Song in the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown and might not be for away.

US-PG30 ALEAN (29) (CD) (Marquest de Maratella) F Courren (Fr. 7 11 10 _____PMBype Che FLGF6-1 BATTON BANK (SSD (CD) (Mr.) Moud) D Nebrokoli 9 11 10 ______ A Ne P230(Y1- BOOK OF MUSIC (274) (Mr. 0 Louseda N Balley 7 11 10 _______ Do 111-10F COULTON (26) (M G S. Quraten) Q Sherwood 8 11 10 _______ Do

- 12 GOCHTON BETRING: 2-1 One Man, 3-1 Barbon Blank, 7-2 Merry Gela, 8-1 Debits Plyor, 9-1 Vol D'Alorse, 11-1
Algen, 20-1 Monstew La Care, 25-1 Erief Gela, Couffon, 50-1 Egypt MIN Prince
1994: Algen 6 11 10 P Chemier 16-1 IF Doumen, France) 9 Jan

FORM GUIDE

1994: Algan 6 11 10 P Operation 16-1 in Doumen, France) 9 ian

First is one for the chaseing commission and MEZRIY GALE is taken to become the first firsh challenger to win it since Captain Christy 119-75), with One Main and Barton Barrik the dampers. The selection usually thesis to force the pace, so should be suited by this strain truck. I'm Drapper's rummer with the Punchestown Chase for the second year running when 10 lengths too good for king of the Gates last mainth and he gained a most impressive victory over Martomick at Aintree in Anni when Barrin Barrik went of the 2-1 farourite but ran way below his best to firinsh a distant soch. Merry Gale failed to lest home when 3-34-tength fourth in the Gold Cup with Barrin Barrik and the French por. Algain hetiner of this event a year agol, and stable mate Vall D'Aleme, both unswaring their riders. The lists hope looked better than ever last time and, with Richard Durwoody, who was un board then, isaming up with One Main is time. Gridwan Bradery, who mode Merry Gale to victory at Amoree and Nirows him just as well is back on loand. Durwoody, who was the board then, isaming up with One Main Medior-partnered Titus Ceres in 1969. One Main has won both his races this season handsomely and he should certainly confirm latest Haydock running with Moneleur La Cure, who was the 11-length runnine-up and is only 4th better in. Having said that. Monsteur La Cure will appreciate the cut in the ground and has attracted recent subport. Barron Barin, who was the 11-length runnine-up and is only 4th better in. Having said that. Monsteur La Cure will appreciate the cut in the ground and has attracted recent subport. Barron Barin, who was the 11-length runnine-up and is only 4th better in. Having said that. Monsteur La Cure will appreciate the cut in the ground and has attracted recent subport. Barron Barin, who was the in 1993, had last year's event seven up only to bounder badily and unisho Adrian Magure at the last, leaving Algain to book Monseur La Cure will appreciate the cu

2.50 BONUSPHOTO WAYWARD LAD NOVICE CHASE C4 (CLASS C) £20,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £14,135

| 14-2001 | RESIDENCE CONTROL | RESIDENCE | RESIDENCE

Fide

CALLISOE BAY and Hebrideen have both been set down by faulty femong but look the principals here. Hebrideen have both been set down by faulty femong but look the principals here. Hebrideen who had set success among less season's staying hundres, justified favourbain on his chasing bow at Womester and whild probably have followed up when 9-2 on hor even Blue's race at Banger execut the tasing at the less. Cattoon Buy, who was also a useful hundre last season and has aways looker as in he would make a decent chasely, was going like a winner only to totale one too this of Captain Receive's size at Chateriam. He brotted up at Uttimere and was in hord, when he fell at the less against ASA. Form at Notingtain. Fallmouth Bay beat Mr Piclipootest trace-quarters of a length who both were making their change debuts at Tauritor, and, attrough 4th worse off, had a bit in hand thy day and should confirm science and, earliering the numerou was in a deor lead when camed out at Euder next time. Sample Arithmetic hill have greatly benefited from its first chase when him to Certain's Strang at Sandown.

3.20 BONUSFILM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £7,328

2-131-3 STRAWSERY ANGE, (10) No. New York 27,525

303-70 RELL STATEON (18) AN New Y Mount (25-75-3 12.0 Style Mile

900012 PRACHA (267) (0) No. New York 2 Reve 12.11.7 D 75-860

02-1112 PARKER SKI (25) (0) No. New York 2 Reve 12.11.7 D 75-860

31021 SEAMS SED (17) Revenue 10.00 No. 10.00 T 13.1 X 14.00 No. 10.00 No

BETTINGS 5-2 Faither Sky. 4-1 Sessons Send. 8-1 Markets, Plander Sky. Stumberry Angel, 12-1 As-gold's Double, Bell Staffboy, Lucky Blue, Subski River. 14-1 Decembed Cold, Progedia, 15-1 others 1994: Not. The Beak 5-10-5

FORM GUIDE SESAME 6 EED looked booked for further success after he raid bearen Top Cees four length

SESAME 6 SED looked booked for further success after he had beaten Top Gees four lengths at Doncaster (2m 4f) his morth, He goes on the soft and can subplement the guns. For their Sky books the chief threat having completed a hat-tho-before his 15-length second to the highly rated See More Business at Sungarin. Plander Bay, who returned to writing from under 11st 12ba is Lacoster last time, and Bell Stafflow, who best Cottains a length at Warrinck last month but was lasts cripseed behind Better Times Ahead at Chemisterian.

appeal most of the others. Desimond Gold, while of his last two notes in 1994-95, was weakening when he fell three fights out in Time For A Flutter's roce at Wordester last month when the selection finished a two-and-a-half-length second.

Selection: SES-MAE SEED.

9 202-951 PURPORE BRY (20) 6.5 & WY ROW 4 IN HEATHER 4 10.5
10 1144 50 MEMORA (10) The One Contract Partners of Planette 4 10.5
11 005114 DESMOND GOLD (20) 15 SOUND A 1 force 10 There 7 10.1
12 23-P10 ANNELTS DOUBLE (27) 17 Hermon, 9 Burder 7 10.0
13 P24-16 SPICER AM (28) (0) Win G-4 Message Princip 4 10.0

Minimum weight 10st True namedow weight Gorger are 9st 15th

11 5/23112- BREEF GALE (DAS) (C) (Mrs Carne Zerber-Weiss) Gotord 8 11.5

11UF-11 ONE MAN (17) (00 U Hales) G Remards 7 11 10

KING GEORGE VI TRIPLEPRINT CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £100,000 added 3m Penaity Value



Dublin Flyer's courageous jumping may coax mistakes from his King George rivals

Photograph: Ed Byrne

Kempton inspect

off due to frost and snow and Kempton's card has been put under threat by a worsening weather forecast.

"We have bad bit of raio hut the going is still soft - the only thing that has changed is the forecast," Micbael Webster, the clerk of the course.

"In view of forecast temperatures of minus six degrees Celcius, there will be a precau-

Today's meetings at Ayr and tionary inspection at 6.30am. Sedgefield bave been called The inspection is timed a The inspection is timed so that the result can go out on the first racing hulletin on Radio 5 Live at 6.55."

Hereford's meeting is also subject to a precautionary lo-spection at 7.30am because the forecast is for frost.

Edinburgh's card tomorrow is also in doubt. "The course has frost and snow and an inspection will be held at 9am on Boxing Day." the course's manager, Mark Kershaw, said.

I IIO MILE COMBO	,,,,,,									
KING GEOR	GĘ	V.	Ĉ.	-		1.0		A P	1	A
Fate of the favourities:	1965	86	. 2.		. 89		3			94
Wigner's place in betting	0 3	.0	0	.1	. 1 .	_1	.0	. 1	- 21	0
Starting-prices:	121	15-1	25-1	1-2	4-6	94	10-1	el	9-2	16-1
Aglesis	20	. 7:	8	9.	10	.: 11,	- 6	7	. Z	6
Profit or loss to £3. stat	one Fa	Mount	es -13	L58.	Sac	ood P	recently.	25 –	7.25	
Percentage of withours	placed	ist,	2nd or	Brd b	n less	FRCS:	80%	7:1		
Shortest-priced wiscom	Deser	t Dich	d 1-2	1968) :			, T		
Longest-priced whner.	Nupsal	a 25	11198	ŋ. ·	• • ; •	71	., 1.		: ' '	7
Top trainers: F Doumen D Elsworth										4)
Ton Inchests & Change	4 - Da	-	-	999	1000	1		·:-	7.7	* 1.7

R Durwoody - Desert Orchol (1989, 1990) A Kondret - The Fellow (1991, 1992) Key: U = Unsected rider, 21 = joint-second favourite.

WETHERBY

12.50 Crackhill Farm 1.20 Gnome's Tyconn 1.50 Frickley 2.20 Lo Stregone (nb) 2.50 Amigos 3.20 Tom Brodie

INSPECTION: 7.30m

SOUNDS GOOD to SOTE.

■ Leis-hand own circuit. Run-in of Chilyde slightly uphill.

■ Course is NE of town on B1224 or june of A58 and A1. ADMISS-SEON: Club S12 (accompanied under-16s free). Tamewalls 57: Course S2 (OAP) \$11 (case with up to 4 adults \$5). CAR PARE: Pres.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Fourth In Line (1.5)& Mounisme Le Cure (2.20) sent 174 miles by J Edwards from Selinck, Heref d. 12.50 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m

O-1 COLONEL IN CHIEF (25) (ID) F Murphy 5 11 5 P Carbony 3F ADMIRALE SERT (27) M W Essenby 7 10 12 Deficion O ARTWORD (17) H W Exceeby 7 10 12 Element (5) 223 SALHESWOCK (10) (ISF) M H Espenby 6 10 12 Deficion

4 223 BALHERMOCH (10) (8F) M H Easterby 6 10 12 _______ M Year 5 CRACKHELL FAMEL for M Reveloy 4 10 12 _______ M Smith 6 DARMAN N INMERTO-DEWES 6 10 12 _______ M Smith 7 O EURO THYNE (17) M H Extendy 5 10 12 M Committy 8 545 GROUND TORON (6802) R BASINOR 8 10 12 H Best Reveloy 10 LERT THE LUCRY Mass 5 Half 6 10 12 _______ M Best Rev 11 35-0 PLAREMALE (17) M W Extendy 4 10 12 _______ M Best Rev 12 O THE OTHER MAN 12877 Mas 1 School 5 10 12 M Revelor (7) 13 4233-0 THAREDRY HORN 12877 Mas 1 School 5 10 12 M Revelor (7) 14 O WARNAG (CNO (103) Find Cented 4 10 12 _____ M Deyrer 14 (100 Cented 4 10 12 _____ M Deyrer 15 ECTIONS 7-4 Descend in Chief, 4-1 Deyrems, 7-1 Crackhell Form, 10-1 Advanced -BETTING 7-4 Descend in Chief, 4-1 Deyrems, 7-1 Crackhell Form, 10-1 Advanced -

1.20 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 6 declared
Liminum weight 10st True handisp might String Sound 9st Sb.

BETHING: 7-4 Secure's Tycoon, 2-1 Morcell, 5-2 Vallent Wenfor, 5-1 Wind Force, 12-1 Strong Sound

1.50 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1 1110-34 SWIET NIGNONETTE (55) (D) (SF) Mis M Revely (120.

23110-0 GOLDEN HEILD (24) (D) M H Easterby 4 12 0 12-0000 WHITE WILLOW (10) (CD) Mis M Review 6 11 11...

5	DATT -30	ALMOSER (17) (5) (65) M W Extenty 8 11 8 Divyor
6	P64-046	FRICKLEY (10) F Murphy 9 11 7P Curberry
7		COOL LUNE (21) (CD) G M Moore 6 11 0
8	· /15/P5	BANK VEW (17) DO N Tester 10 10 12
9	120-004	BLACKPATCH HILL (LT) (CD) N Tribler 8 10 7.E Reshound (3)
10	0013/20	MUTIVE FIELD (20) (3) J FizGestid 6 10 6 E Callaghan (5)
11		KAPROABIL (239) (CO) N Father 8 10 4
		WEAVER GEORISE (29) (CD) J Hellens 5 10 4
		- 12 decimed-
BE	TD12: 7-2	Toldey Hello, 4-1 Sweet Migrovette, 5-1 Alledon, 7-1 Fourth
		Burdenstein 1000 Martins Hald 90.4 officers

ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE

Minimum weight 10st. True handrap weight Corbicate 9st 13th. BETTING: 11-4 One Man, 7-2 Jodans, 4-1 Young Houtler, 5-1 Massion La Care, 7-1 Scotton Barks, 8-1 Lo Stragone, 19-1 Cagnet, 12-1 others

2.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m

5414-1 ASK TOR (15) (0) 7 Toto 6 11 9 -onge, 5-4 Ank Tons, 4-1 Anskans, 25-1 Five

3.20 BOKING DAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 224-213 Row PROTE (20) (1) H Johnson S 11 12 0 Beelly 214015 DESERT FIGHER (20) (60) (67) Mrs M Rowley 4 11 9

- 16 deciere Minimum weight: 10st. True handings weights: Downs Quist 9st 12th, South fast 9st 7th, No Word, 9st 5th, Mager Trick 8st 8th.

BETTING: 7-2 Tone Brudin, 4-1 flye Grossing, 8-1 Owens Quiet, Desert Fighter, Ital Mass Hours, 14-1 Circus Link, Justice Star, 18-1 others

WINCANTON

HYPERION 12.40 Lucia Forte 1.10 Smith's Band 1.40 Ever Smile 2.10 Gales Cavalier 2.45 The Carrot Man

INSPECTION: 74m GOING: Good to Soft.

Right-hard, galloping course. Run-in of 200yd.

Course is NE of town on E8761. ADMISSRON: Members \$ 14 (unitor Members. 17 to 22 yrs, \$ 7); Tattersalis SD; Course (and cars to course) \$ 1, (Under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Fire.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Precale Girl | 1 40) wor at Linguist on Wednesdry.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Top Corn (1.40) has been sent 266 miles by Mrs J Ramsden from Sundhoston. N Yorks.

12.40 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 2m

- 7 decized - Seriti's Band, Yorkshire Gele, 6-1 Detailor Lodge, 8-1 Deat Tell The 14fc, Tources Prises, 10-1 Chris A Rock, 20-1 Claristness Gorse 1.40 WINCANTON GOLD CARD H'CAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS B) £7,000 2m 6f

12 130503 NSMTR (200) M Por 4 10 0 Miss 8 Viciney.
13 11-3141 EVER SHILE (62) (CD) M Por 8 10 0 0 Bervess (7)
14 2465300 M Por 10 Color (200) R O'Sulver 5 10 0 4.6 Figure 15
15 1217.0F PERNET CHARMER (24) P. Gold 10 10 0 3.8 Machine
15 107/59- TOP MYALIN (250 Ms 1 Perfore Grows 8 10 0 1.4 Expell (5)
17 125-110 EUTE FES. (42) M Por 6 510 0 Ms Noters (7)
18 111211 PREPRIA MEX. (9 CF) M Por 8 10 0 Bed . Sophie Mischell (6)
19 1130- THERMAL MEXISTER (200) 1 Old 7 10 0 Ms Below (7)
20 1-24:161 TOUR LEADER (25) R Backet 8 10 0 Ms Shifter (7)
21 350-509 LANSDOWNE (34) (30 P Nichole 7 10 0 Ms Shifter (7)
22 declared — 22 declared —

— 22. declared — Mariama (1). The handless with the handless with the handless waters Russiany Rete Sst 120. Roades Mariama (10st. Thus handless waters Russiany Rete Sst 120. Roades Mariama (10st. Too Deep Sst 120. Annat Sar St., Serv. State Sar St.), Saragajact Pour Sst. Too. French Charmer Sst 20., Top Javelin Ser 10., Eller Reg. Preside St. Thermal Worker Sst 130. Too Leader, Landowne Sst 120. ESTIMUS. 7-2 Roades May. 8-2 Top Ceas, 9-1 bitted Javel, 10-1 Time, 12-1 Allegation, Eller Bug, Eler Stalle, Puetswood, 14-1 others.

SETTERS: 4-5 Gaies Covalier, 5-2 Over The Pole, 6-1 Mad Thyone, 12-1 Megsood, 33-1 Freds Malody, Kashan 2.45 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m

3.15 STRRUP CUP NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m DLE (CLASS F) £2,500 added 2m

1 505235 FRONTASSE (481) C Egeton 5 12 D Mr M Rimal

2 522541 CHANNESS 807 (277 G Junes 7 11 11 Mr E Simus

3 02/44-02 GENERAL ROBC (12) D Gentrido 8 11 7. Sophic Historial 87

4 061162 ANLACE (17) DJ S Mettr 6 11 A Claris Webb (5)

5 07364 MD MESE MISS (29) O BROWN 5 11 1 A Michaba

6 00-023 LINCARN CCT (24) 689 Mr 1 Pirem 4 11 0 ... R Roman

7 22/5726 CAPPAN GELIKA (25) S Rogie 7 M 13 ... S Roman

9 0-12321 DONTINESSTORMAN (20 A Tomal 5 10 12 ... 9 Cross (7)

10 00-015 TAMAND (25) 6) C Johns 5 10 11 ... S Roman

10 00-015 TAMAND (25) 6) C Johns 5 10 11 ... S Roman

11 POUNTS MESENCOS MINNE (12) A I Wilson 7 1D 0 ... I Barvay

12 00-56-59 WHAT 5 THE JONE (48) I Link 8 10 0 Mr A Millichial (7)

13 3F000 LIBRAY LEY (25) R Hoter 5 10 0 ... I Annot (5)

14 RO-FOO CARRINAL NO (23) K Being 5 10 0 ... I Annot (5)

15 00-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 10 0 ... I Refress

15 00-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 10 0 ... I Refress

15 00-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Hoter 5 10 0 ... I Annot (5)

16 10-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 10 0 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

15 00-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 10 0 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

15 10-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 20 0 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

16 10-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 20 0 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

15 00-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R Links 5 20 0 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

15 10-075 CHESTAL LIST (25) R LINKs The Join Set (10), Links 1 Links 5 20 ... I Mr 1 Cellody (7)

Music to miss key sterlir contest contest

The absence of Book Of Music from today's King George caused hardly a ripple in the betting on the big race, but the rain that fell during the early part of the weekend forced a plunge on the François Doumen pair, Val D'Alene and Algan. Kim Bailey had warned that

Book Of Music's participation depended on his working satisfactorily and Bailey's wife,

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Val D'Alene (Kempton 2.20) NB: Captain Khedive (Wolverhampton 2.00)

Tracey, announced on Sunday: "He doesn't run at Kempton." William Hill's spokesman, David Hood, reported on the market moves that occurred before his firm's telephone lines closed for credit customers on Saturday. "We have laid Val D'Alene to lose well over £50,000 and Algan has been nearly as popular," he said. Ladbrokes have eased the

favourite, One Man, from 7-4 to 2-1 and have also clipped the price of Val D'Alene to 12-1 from 14-1. The firm has trimmed Merry Gale, Algan and Monsieur Le Cure because of Book Of Music's defection.



12.45: Master Beveled chased home Mack The Knife at Havdock, giving 12h to Martin Pipe Champion Hurdle hopeful, but is unlikely to cope with another Restival possible, RIVER NORTH, on softer ground. This Group One winner on the Flat should be fit enough after being readied for an abortive anturn campaign. If his jumping falls short of require-ments, legios poses the danger. 000

1.15: SO FAR BOLD makes his debut on these shores after win ning a valuable contest in France last time. He has been schooled over British fences and should prove too strong for the donestic opposition. Hill Of Tullow's Cherstow form worked out well and be beat second season chasers at Sandown last time, but only after surviving a terrible blunder. Red The Power, well-backed when landing a tooks a supart prospect. son, looks a smart prospect.

L45: CHERYUS LAD has been raised 9lb for his easy Chel-tenham win, but has been let off lightly compared to Grooving, 11th higher in the weights for a less authoritative success in a weaker event at Fontwell (with

and the more progres the French pair, who has run well against the best of his compatri-ots this autumn, can come through

better suited by the going and dis-tance than on his chasing debut (Tothewoods unscated rider), but ran poorly at this meeting last year and may need a more galloping track. With Callisoe Bay exposed as a flawed colossus, HARWELL LAD, who bear seasoned handi cappers last time, can outstay and outjump inexperienced rivals.

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL 12TH • 13TH • 14TH MARCH - SAVE£12.50 £37.50 CLUB DAY BADGE



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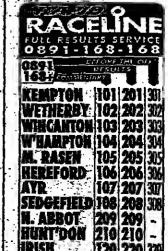
1 7 Tares

2.20: The turn for the worse in the going will not belp the chances of One Man, who fell in testing onditions here in February be hind VAL D'ALENE, and has cored only once on 8 right-handed course. The grey has also yet to win a race run at the kind of pace that Dublin Flyer is capable of setting. Few of these could stand up to Tim Forster's muchimproved handicapper in a jump-ing duel, which may cause problems for the likes of Barton problems for the likes of harron Bank and Coulton, who are un-suited to slogging it out. Neither Dublin Flyer for Meany Gale are guaranteed to last home in the

to outstay them all. 2.50: Simple Arithmetic will be

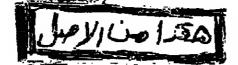
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CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE



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Doumen expects a sterling exchange

François Doumen believes that William Hughes the bookmakers again under-estimated the French challenge

for foday's King George.

"If they were trained in England, my horses would have been half those odds," claims the trainer, referring to some of the more extragavant prices quoted about Algan and Val D'Alene when ante-post betting opened on today's race.

Doumen, who says he has not the slightest interest in betting on French racing, has landed some notable gambling coups in the King George since he brought the unconsidered outsider Nupsala to Kempton in

"I backed him at 50-1 before that race, and he won it by 15 lengths," he said. "And I could not believe that I was able to get . 16-1 about The Fellow when he woo it first time."

finds the French - backed with cash and confidence

it only 20s." Needless to say, he has backed both his pair at healthy prices for today's con-

Doumen feels remote enough in his SIS-free Lamorlaye yard not to be harried by the big Anglo-Irish reputations lined up against his horses. "I am sitting here in France, and I read in my English racing papers good news about one rival, and bad news about another. I don't worry too much either way."

And Doumen has little to

worry about, his string having accrued well over £1.5m in And Algan last year? "Yes, of prize-money in 1995, including

winners just before the Parisian racing season closed down a couple of weeks ago.
All this despite the death of

his stable stars, Ucello and Ubu, and the retirement of dual King George winner The Fellow to the Marquesa de Moratalla's stud near St Albans. ealthy prices for today's const.

As Tor Algan and Val
D'Alene, the trainer says: "They
Although admitting that the
have been running in the top race looks especially strong. French jumping races this season. At home I have just been keeping them warmed up and

they are both very fit."

Doumen is not prepared to split the two, but Ian Williams, his assistant, does confess to a slight preference. "Last year I told Lord Oaksey that I preferred The Fellow to the mexperienced Algan. That opinion was then broadcast on television before the race, so I felt a bit embarrassed afterwards.

"This time I do think Algan grand comparisons about him.



and is confident of repeating the experience

on," Williams said. He has been recently won the same good an integral cog in the Doumen team since he left Jenny Pitman's yard four years ago.

Doumeo has also targetted So Far Bold at Kemptoo's Feltham Novices' Chase and the trainer is oot reluctant to make

race at Auteuil that Val D'Alene had won eo route to his success in the Racing Post Chase," he said.

The role of the today's venue in the Doumen success story can be gauged from the fact that the family Jack Russell is called

And even Kempton, the dog, seems lucky for Doumen. A year ago the trainer and his wife Elizabeth mislaid Kempton 50 miles from the stable only to recover him after what Doumen describes as "a bizarre series of coincidences"

Photograph: Robert Hallam

"Anything to do with Kemp-too seems lucky for us."

course. I was on at 25-1, or was a blitz of Flat and jumping may be the one, he really is spot "He is a quality horse, who Kempton. Danoli takes first strides on path to the Champion Hurdle

Danoti, who had looked likely Champion fluidle after coming to miss the whole of the Nathrough his first piece of work tional Hunt season after sus- since the accident on Saturday. taining an injury at Aintree in . His trainer, Tom Foley, now

HYPERION

GOING: Heavy.

Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.

12.35 La Menorquina 1.05 Potentate 1.35 Doc Cottrill 2.05 Trying Again 2.35 Hightown Cava-lier 3.05 Mobile Measenger 3.35 Corrin Hill

PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION 7.30mm

m negationals course with 200ys run-in.

Resections: in most fof city on A49, ADMOSSION; Club 29;
Tamersalls 56; Course & 4, CAE PARE, Free.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS; None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS; Watt (1.35) has been sent 116 miles
by J White from Wendover, Backinghaushire:

12.35 TURKEY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

1 NONE BURSEACH (65) K Balley 6 115 ______A Thorston 3412 LA MERORQUIAN (24) D Navies 5 11 0 ______ Bellegher

0-05 LORD LOFTY (19) Mrs. J Pariso 5 10 12 R Bellamy 05-0 RATATOLIS DE ROAD (21) R Lee 5 10 12 P MicLoughille

10 U2- RUMI (291) C Egraph 4 10 7 _______ M Breaking 11 6/3/3/5 SPRING BRASS (34) 8 Rull 7 10 7 ______ Y Descripto (5)

1.05 TURKEY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

2 FF53-10 THREE PHILOSOPHERS (27) (CD) (NP) T Foster 611.5

4- PACIFIC POWER (484) A Junes 5 30 12.....

05 RAISE AND GAIN (13) N Transco-Dones 4 10 12_C Liouvilles

BETTREE 5-4 Potenties, 4-1 three Philosophers, 7-1 Mes Dythylet, Kales And Gale, 10-1 Ontic Rose, Sunta Galmes, 14-1 Sound Forecast, 18-1 others

1.35 MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,600 added 3m 2f

PF- HYMER (240 A Limelin 6 120 ______ D Matthew (3) 321-015 WWT (19) (D) (BF) (Whei 5 11 10 ______ P McLoughin

0-50230 COPPER COR. (24) WS M Natur 5 11 5 _____ A Thornton

O-PPOPO BOOGE BOPPER (9) M Pige 8 11 0

7 2310P THE TRAN 600ST (960) S Conth.p 2 10 10 Mark Brown (7) 8 40-00 FLYING SMP (22) R Hollesbead 4 10 9 _____M W Mortin (7)

8 55-3030 JTS GRAND (8) J M Briefly 6 10 0 ______ R Johnnon (5) _____ A distinct —

Minimum segit: 10st. Tea Taration segit: in Gand 9st 125. SETTRE: 11-4 Doc Cottrill, 3-1 its Grand, 4-1 Whitebounet, 5-1 Wald, 7-1 Flying hop, 16-1 Copper Coll, 16-1 ethers

1 RIA-USD DOC COTTRILL (25) in Twiston Dougs 5 12 0 ____ C Limethra

REBEL PRIEST C Egyrop 5 10 12 D Colleger Solicid Forecast Mrs S Johnson 7 10 12 B Johnson (3)

-3.1 declared DETINGS 6-1 Mag Characte, 4-1 Stand, 5-1 Monthly Mr., La Mon
6-1 Coole HW, 28-1 Lord Lotty, 1.6-1 others

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on Hurdle at Leopardstown in were quick to reinstate the chance for Cheltenham, be- time when he contests tomortarget. He will also enter Dano-April, is back on course for the has the AIG Europe Champi- Cheltenham and William Hill

2.05 PLIM PUDDING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

2.35 CAROL RICHARDSON BIRTHDAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,200

P-54311: HIGHTONN CAVALER (11) (C) R Hodges 4 11,0 J Hear's (7)

um weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Matavail 9st 11th, Celtic Erner

3.05 TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,500 added 3m 1f 110yds

4 5F-5P26 PRIZE MARCH (10) / Tuck 6 11 0

50PQP UPTON LASS (34) C Nash 6 10 0 - 9 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weights: Lo-Flying Missie 9st 10th, Up-

· or cass Str 1600.

BETING: 3-1 Dentes Sun, 7-2 Mobile Messenger, Prize Match, 4-1 Big "Arthur, 8-1 Holy Sting, 10-1 Ballydogan, 16-1 others

3.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 3f 110yds

0621-61 SPRING SAINT (25) Miss C Hoter 6 11 0 ______ 6 Uplon 3U120-P SOAR MOVER (10) (CD) C Smith 8 12 0 _____ 8 Cleake (7) 2035-04 MY SWAN SORIG (15) J Smith 10 11 11 _____ A Thornton

506300 FREE DANCER (248) (C) R Brotheston 5 10 7 ___C Lieuwilles 450-016 PROJECT'S MATE (L1) (C) R Brown 8 10 2 ___P McLoughille

12 055-01P CASSIO'S BOY (15) R Estay 4:10 1 ______ D Gallagian 13 P40004 LESSWOOD (26) R Las 7:10 1 _____ R Bellamy 14 300-022 DANCENE DANCER (28) (b) 10 Genginy 8:10 0 ____ X Stateny 15 0465-73 DORBISTON BOYO (22) T Wall 5:10 0 _____ M Keighicy (7)

Minteum weight: 10st. Two handless weight: Commison Boyo Set 12to.
BETTHM: 8-1 Conta Hill, 6-1 Spring Saint, 8-1 Fit By North, 8-1 Silver
-Standard, 12-1 My Swan Song, Dancing Dancer, 14-1 others

added 2m 1f

February as the gelding's first horse into a market on the hind Alderbroook, at 11-4, and row's Christmas Hurdle at race that has been weakened by Montelado, at 9-2. The last- Kempton as Richard Dunli for the Champioo Hurdle at withdrawals and disappoint named is likely to be partnered woody prefers to ride at Leop-Cheltenham and William Hill ments. They make him a 6-1 by Jamie Osborne for the first ardstown.

HUNTINGDON

12.30 Camp Bank 1.00 Second Call 1.30 Alaskan Heir 2.00 Kiffinny Cross 2.30 Ask Me Kindiy 3.00 Fierce 3.30 Flexwing GOING: Good to Soft (with Soft patches)

■ Right-hand, level course, Run-in 200yds.
■ Course is at june of A1 and A604, ADMISSION: Members £12;
Tattersalls £8; Course £4, CAE PARE: Pictule area £1; rest free. nausyanus an; Course S4, CAE PARE: Picnic area S1; rest free, WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DISTANCE ZUNNERS; Vicosa, (1,00), Blake's Wonder (1,30) & Blustery Day (3,30) have been sent 156 miles by R Ainer, from Droop, Dorset.

12.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT "NATIONAL HUNT" NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £2,350 added 3m 2f 0-1 MERREENA (35) (C) G Hubbard 5 11 0...

1.00 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1/5F2-PD MAESTRO PAUL (24) J 6/foot 9 11 26-5642 NAGORELIA (19) J Peutos 7 11 0 ... /046-50 REVER ISLAND (17) J ON 7 11 0 _____ 5403U54 STRONG JOHN (14) 8 Hubbard 7 11 0 ____

1.30 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 5f 110yds 15 PS-5060 PONTEVECCINO BELLA (14) Mis L Jewell 9 10 0 W Whith (7)

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weight: Para BETINE: 9-2 Overs Quest, 5-1 Hi Hediey, 6-1 Alaston Heir, 7-1 Brokla Boy, 8-1 Bedraidsel, 10-1 II Bambine, 12-1 others

2.00 'Q103' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 1. 12211-2 RECIDEN CARDEN (60) (C) (D) I Forster 6 12 12 . 2 1P2/P1-1 KILFBONY CROSS (46) (C) (D) J Presco 7 11 11 J McLaughin 6F315-1 DISTINCTIVE (13) M Wikinson 8 11 5....

8 Q/14564 SM/WELL (365) (CD) 6 Hubbard 7 10 3 _____ K Gambe (3) - 8 declared -BETING: 5-2 Memerce, 3-1 Kiffiany Cross, 7-2 Distinctive, 4-1 Rectory Garden, 5-1 Sedge Warbler, 12-1 Buckshot, 14-1 others

2.30 FESTIVE SPIRIT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,350 added 3m 2f 2-DPP1 CAVALIERO (24) H Marmors 8 11 5

F THERD MELODY (21) J Mains 9 10 7 ______S Curran (3) - 11 declared -

BETTRIC: 7-2 Ask No Kindly, 9-2 Counters, 5-1 Third Melody, Juliana, Miss Noney Osts, 7-1 Spaceage Gold, 12-1 Spitoy, 16-1 others 3.00 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 110yds

3-21121 NEWHALL PRINCE (10) (D) A Sueder 7 11 8 ______ Y Eley /1.43/1/- WYLAM (664) J Griord 6 11 8 ________ No P O'Kerdio (7)
PO-5431 RERCE (12) (D) J Jenions 7 11.7 ______ E Morphy

-5 doctored -BETTING: 2-1 Newtooli Prince, 3-1 Wytane, 7-2 Driving Force, Pierce,

3.30 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 added Zm 110/yus

BUSTERY DAY R Alver 5 11 4 ______ P Carey (5)

3 BRANLEY MAY (27) R Williams 5 11 4 ______ S Keightey

5 CARDINAL RULE (21) J Chards 6 11 4 ______ J R Krennings CORREMALZE K Morgan 4 11 4 _S Ryan (7) __K Gaste (3) SAFEGLIDE J Geford 5 11 4 _______ Mer P O'Nor 6 THE CAPIDARYS WISH (27) 0 Nicholson 4 11 4 R Mass

– 16 declared – BETTENG: 4-1 Capi-Yu, 5-1 Bransley May, 6-1 Safegilde, 7-1 The Captain's Wish, 6-1 Blustney Day, 10-1 Confective, 14-1 others

12.50 Cyrus The Great 1.20 Lemon's Mill 1.50 Come Dance With Me 2.30 Brambiehill Buck 3.05 Sovereign Niche 3.35 Mega-

GOING: Heavy (waterlogged in place).

Left-head, sharp, everse with short ran-in.

Course is N of town on ASSO. ADMINISTON: Tracerpolis 28.50;
COURSE AC AGR PARES: On rule \$1.50, respander free,
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN BAYS: News. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Hinsaids (2.30) has been sent 191 miles by R Castis from Woodces, Loudon

12.50 THURLESTONE BOTTE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 3YO 2m 1f

1.20 EBF TATTERSALLS (RELAND) MARIES NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

1.50 EBF 107 NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) 86.9 CRORDE STO (23) Mis 1 Mis 5 20 9...

12 OF3664 NO NEAR MISS (25) O Bavorth 5 10 9 _____ A McCabe - 13 declared -

SETTING: 2-1 Dames, 6-1 Come Dance With Me, 6-1 Hauging Grove, No New Miss., 10-1 El Frankle, Wineford HE, 12-1 Danny Gale, 10-1 others LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL HANDICAP

2.30 CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 2f 110yds PF213-P 1ERMO (25) M Pipe 9 120 ... 940-41F IIS A SNEP (44) (D) C Menn 10 10 8

BETTRIC: 11-4 Brambioldi Buck, 3-1 Terno, 9-2 Killoshin, 6-1 Silverino, er, 12-1 Its A Salp, 14-1 others

3.05 CHRISTMAS PUDDING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 110yds 21PP4P BENUMEN LANCASTER (15) (C) (D) M 6/6/1 11 11 10 .

1-13542 CLEAR IDEA (15) (CD) R Front 7:10 13... I Russeter, 3-1 Clear Mea, 7-2 Sovereign Mehe, 8-1 Bos-pter, 8-1 Supreme Music, 19-1 Maple Descer, 14-1 Tale Of

3.35 ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 2m 6f HIGHEST ROOTS M Pros 4 12 0 ... 40820-2 AR PLANFUL MS) R From 5 10-8

OFFOO: MESHAGINCK (54) R Audies 7 10 0 ______ D Sales (5)
BEROTE (MAZE DESIGNA (200) N Telepon-Denies 5 10 0 _____ 7 Joseph 9 0000-6 CELTIC BES (21) Mis H Paront 5 10 0 Mir M Barrows
10 365P OLD DEER PARK (4-0) P Jones 9 10 0 Mir M Barrows
11 05(UP-0 VERFORD MIDDEL (1988) V Geormay 5 10 0 M Griffiths (7)

—11 declared —

Allohrum weight: 10st. Inch handlesp weights: Magamenth Set 18th, Hole Deming Set 12th, Centr Ray Set Sib, Old Door Park Set Sib, Ventont Modal Set 70. 95-P CRUME (FIG. 13) Mrs. 1 Mile 5 20 9 Mrs. 1 Mrs. 20 9 Mrs. 1 Mrs. 5-2 Medican Price, 4-1 Fox On The Rum, 5-1 Haile Denting
37P PRESENT CLANCE (65) Mrs. 1 Wiczoscott 6 10 9 Mrs. 1 Mrs. 5-2 Medican Price, 4-1 Fox On The Rum, 5-1 Haile Denting
37P PRESENT CLANCE (65) Mrs. 1 Wiczoscott 6 10 9 Mrs. 1 Mrs. 5-2 Medican Price, 4-1 Fox On The Rum, 5-1 Haile Denting
37P PRESENT CLANCE (65) Mrs. 1 Wiczoscott 6 10 9 Mrs. 1 Mrs.

WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 1.00 Herbert Buchanan 1.30 Church Law 2.00 Captain Khedive 2.40 Storm North 3.10 Tony's Mist 3.40 Elflaa

INSPECTION 6.30am M Left-hand, oval course.

Course is N of town on A448. ADMISSION: Members £15;
Grandstand £6. CAR PARK: free. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None

LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Addington Boy (1 30) has been sent 175 miles by G Elchards from Greystoke, Cumbria. 1.00 PERTEMPS NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £8,000 added to stakes 2m 4f 110vds 1-23P1U SOPHISM (12) M Pipe 8 11 11_

1.30 DEEPFIELDS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £10,000 added to stakes 3m 1f

DUCOP ARTENISE & GAME (7) N Lampson 8 11 C. 00-3 HARTS WAY (83) J Enwards 5 10 13 6 declared -

- 6 declared -BETTING: ovens Addington Roy, 9-4 Myland, 6-1 Church Law, 14-1 Hag's Way, 20-1 Quite & Man, 25-1 Arrange & Garre 2.00 HARRY BROWN MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added to stakes 2m 1121-4F CLAY COUNTY (39) (D) (597) At Hammond 10 12 0 -A Dobbi

January Lyons

- 7 decirred
Minimum seight 10st. This handing seight Nowhell Prince Sit 4b.

BETTING: 2-1 Time Won't Walt, 9-4 Captain Rhedive, 7-2 Clay
County, 8-1 Young Sought, Husbail Prince, 16-1 Lessin, 33-1 Gambing
Royal

2.40 JTS (INTERNATIONAL) NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added to stakes 2m

4f 11Dyds 443-15 DANZIG ISLAND (27) W Jenis 4 11 6 ... 2633-21 MALWOOD CASILE (34) (D) R Alter 5 11 6...... B Fenton (5) 3433-11 STORM NORTH (18) (D) Was V Williams 5 11 6 R Dank 002 WEINERY (10) M Berackung 8 11 D 13 0206-U BODFARI PRODUCER (25) J Edwards 5 10 9.....

– 13 declared – NG: 3-1 Mahvood Castle, 4-1 Storm North, 5-1 Weebeby, 7-1 Dazzig I, Bodfari Producer, 14-1 Celbic Reg. Right Angle, 16-1 others

3.10 LIFTING GEAR & TOOL HIRE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added to stakes 2m 0-12104 SAXON MAGEC (47) J Bernett 5 11 1 ______ B Featon (5) 5-23450 AMBER VALLEY (15) 0 Williams 4 11 0._____ A Dobbin 00PO-40 DANCE ON SEPTEME (11) J Peccol 7 11 0 _Philip Highes (7) 50P)00-P DELYEEN (26) (27) J White 5 11 0 ________ B Centerd 02 LETIN LEADER (27) C Egenton 5 11 0 _______ J A blackarday F-O MYSESE (183) G Fear 5 12 0 ______ Mr J L Llowelly 6 11 0 _____ Mr J Llowelly 6 11 0 ______ Mr J Llowelly 6 11 0 ______ Mr J Llowelly 6 11 0 ______ Mr J Llowell 6 11 0 _______ Mr J Llowell 6 11 0 ________ Mr J Llowell 6 11 0 ________ Mr J Llowell 6 11 0 ________ Mr J Llowell 6 11 0 2268 7AMD (\$30 % Burles 4 22 0 AT (13) 6 Procce 5 10 9.... 15 00005-P SHE KNEW THE RULES (190) O Carey 5 10 8 _____ R David - 15 declared -BETTME: 4-1 Amber Valley, 9-2 Preston Build, 6-1 Latin Lander, Samu Magic, 7-1 Explasion, 8-1 Tony's Mist, 14-1 others

3.40 HAGUE FASTENERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £6,000 added to stakes 2m

- 10 declared -Minimum weight: 10st True handkop weight: Crist's Gien 3st 13th. SETTING: 7-2 Tojano Gold, 5-1 Effan, Lot's Got Loet, 5-1 Sacober, 7-1 Windoord Arlom, Chris's Gien, 8-1 others

MARKET RASEN

HYPERION 12.25 Dream Start 12.55 by House 1.25 Kingdom Of Shade 2.00 Iffeee 2.30 Nocatchim 3.05 Artic Wings 3.35 Lucy Tufty

GOING: Chuse course — Good to Suft (Good in back straight); Hurdle course — Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit. Run-in of one furlong.

B. Course is east of town on ASSI. ADMISSION: Chub 515; Tamersalis 58 (OAPs who are members of course a hipbire Glob 541; Silver Rung 54 (Jubilee Club OAPs 52). CAR PARE: plente areas 22, remainder free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Nane.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: lifeee (2.0) has been sent 265 miles by P Bowen from

05P3-PP ERLENO (40) (C) W (20) 6 11 3 ... Guy Leads (3) 47067-P DUBLIN SIDEMENTY (12) (D) M Berby 6 10 13.... PRAF-41 KINDERLEY BOY (27) Ms M Revely 5 10 12....G Lee [3A & South

Abrimum weight: 10st. True handicup weights: Sakration 9st 11th, Thomas Rard 9st 7th, BETTHO: 6-1 Kimberley Boy, 9-2 Brackentimelte, 6-1 Exclusion, 7-1 Trevventhen, 8-1 Kim 10-1 Dream Stort, 12-1 others

12.55 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £5,200 added 3m 1f QP02-33 CARSON CITY (28) (8F) Mrs M Reveloy 8 11 0 ___ Supple sard Goest 3F163-J STORMY CORAL (46) C Perier 5 11 10....... 21312-2 QUET MISTRESS (28) W Benell 5 11 9...... 5/1235- OCEAN LEADER (843) Mrs 0 Hare 8 11 9 _B Store A 6 Smbi 1250-32 NY HOUSE (34) (8F) J J O'Neil 7 11 6 0/0/326 PRAL BEAT (21) J Curts 6 11 8 4542-64 NATIVE MONY (20) M Hammond 8 11 8 .. Mr C Bonner (3) 10 616-PF5 SOLDMAN SPRINGS (11) Mm V Ward 5 11 3 . 11 0/4LB-3 KRBBY BANK (34) J H Johnson 6 10 13F Leahy (3) 50350P- BALART (279) M Chapman 7 10 10 ... 34544-P APRIL CITY (12) C Smstn 6 10 9 14 4006P-0 GOLD PIGEON (87) 8 Rothwell 6 10 3...

BETTINE: 3-1 Persylps Galo, 5-1 Stormy Coral, Quiet Mistress, 6-1 Carson City, 7-1 by House, 12-1 Ocean Leader, Kibby Eznk, 15-1 others

125 SANDILANDS GOLFING HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds 00-26 AH THERE YOU ARE (38) (8F) K Bestey 5 11 5 4 ALCIAN BLUE (24) M Hammond 4 11.5 00/26-6 BE BRAVE (12) T Etherngron 5 11.5 COUNT OF FLANDERS & Morgan 5 11.5 Mr C Bonner (3)A & Smill Gov Levis (3)M. Ramge 020 MAJOR SIOUX (JM Mrs S Smith 4 11 5 0000 MILO BOY (6) M Chapman 4 11 5... 321/4 PHILHARMONIC (967) J FerGerald 7 11 5F Loohy (3) _I Supple [3] ...G Hogan (3) L McGrath (7)

2.00 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL (CLASS C) (A HANDICAP CHASE) £15,000 added 4m 1f PP4/111 HUSK PADRE (10) (C) J ForGeral 9 11 7 ... 011-300 DARK OAK (10) (C) J Cuto 9 11 2 ____O'He ___ Lavrence _ATho Richard Gues _W McFastano 10 36421-5 SPROWSTON BOY (19) M Chepman 12 10 0

— 10 declared —

Alaimum weight: 10st. Twe handicap voights: Pennine Pride 9st 3th, Sprowston Bay 8st 8th, BETTING: 10-11 High Parks, 5-1 Mart Reid, 8-1 lifoon, 10-1 Do Bo Brief, Pennine Pride, 12-1 Demond Fort, 16-1 others

2.30 (CLASS D) £6,500 added 2m 3f 110yds 031410- CASH CHASE (263) (CD) 0 Brennan 7 11 12 ... 310/-21 SESAME SEED (17) (D) Mrs J Coci 7 11 11. 06-5554 BRANGLESERY (17) Mrs S Smith 6 11 8... 10130-5 TEST MATCH (43) (CD) W Cley 8 11 5... 500255 WASHLEY (224) S Gottings 7 11 5 13-4 PRIDE OF MAY (46) C Fastural A 10 11. Mr K Whelen (5 00134-20 NATIVE FIELD (LO) J FitzGereki 6 10 11 ____ 33222-0 MARSH'S LAW (24) (CD) 0 Breman 8 10 9...G Lee (3) 11 5P1332 NOCATCHIM (21) K Memon 6 10 4 A S Smith __LOHaraG Hogan (3) Suean KereeyW McFarland

— 16 dectared — Wwathington
— 16 dectared — Wwathington
— 16 dectared — Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Bold Ambition Set Sib., Triston's Comet Set 7lb, Britan-lib Mills St. 3lb.

PETTING: 7-4 Sections Seed, 6-1 Sessiver, 6-1 Notifive Field, Vanilley, 6-1 Can Charle, 10-1 Cash Chase, 12-1 ethers

3.05 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,200 added 2m 4f 3F3-34F MR FUDGE (6) (D) Mrs J Brown 8 11 9 .. 11122-1 ARTIC WINGS (18) O Brewnen 7 11 7 43454-U ANOTHER VENTURE (11) F HAmphy 5 11 5.....M Foster ...Mr C Store 2500- BUSKING ALONG (221) F Marphy 6 11 5 /01242- CATHRIESS CLOUD (383) C Penier 7 11 5 FO(4/P): COPPER CABLE (704) C Smd: 6 11 5 ______ 617 5202-F GARRISON COMMANDER (40) (8F) A Turnel 6 11 5 ______ 1212P-F SORNS AROUND (26) K Bailey 7 11 5 ______ __LOTte W McFortag 10 52P404 TM TOBY (661) A 6 Foster 8 11 5 ______ 11 3532P-3 PEARL'S CHOICE (25) J McConnoche 7 11 0 nder, 7-1 Calib

3.35 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 1f 110yds __ Supple (3) .A Roche (3)

24-5 PRINCESS MAXINE (6) / J O'Neil 6 11 3. 5-24511 STAC-POLLAIDH (22) K Bailey 5 11 3 O CELTIC CERLINI (20) AIS M Reveley 4 10 9 ... OO SCOTTISH WEDDING (380) W Clay 5 10 8 ... P HEALTHY RESK (17) 7 Kersey 4 10 6 ... Gry Leeks (3) O TREE OF TREE (83) J Notion 4 10 6. TAUFELIANE J L Hares 4 10 5 ...

DOUBLE DECLARATIONS

The following horses are doubly declared on Boxing Day. They will run at their second preference meeting only if the first preference is abandoned: Aimanzzar First preference Market Rasen 3.35 (Second preference Wetherby 3.20); Balast Merket Rasen 12.55 (Hurrington 1.00); Barnsstormer Huntington 12.30 (Sedgefield 12.40); Blackpatch Hill Wetherby 1.50 (Ayr 1.55); Bolancey Garl Sedgefield 3.10 (Ayr 1.55); Braida Boy Huntington 1.30 (Hereford 3.35); Catthness Cloud Ayr 1.25 (Market Rasen 3.05); Carson City Sedgefield 1.40 (Market Rasen 12.55); Cavalero Newton Abbot 3.35 (Huntingdon 2.35); Cavalero Boy Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.15); Cettle Emerald Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.15); Cettle Emerald Hereford 2.35 (Wincarton 3.15); Cettle Emerald Hereford 2.40); Cholsty Ayr 1.25 (Sedgefield 2.40).

2.40); Cabasty Nyl 1.25 (Sedgenea)
2.40).

Elia Man Howe Wed Livy 3.20 (Ayr
1.55); Exclusion Market Rasen 12.25 (Wolverhampton 3.10); Fairnouth Bay
Kempton 2.50 (Huntingdon 1.00); Five
To Seven Westerby 2.50 (Ayr 1.25);
Fourth In Line Kempton 1.45 (Westerby 1.50); Frontager Wincenton 3.15 (Hereford 2.35); Gayton Run Huntingdon 12.30 (Sedgefield 12.40); Heithon Wish Sedgefield 1.40 (Market Rasen 2.50); Hallwalk Market Rasen 2.00 (Newton Abbot 2.30); The Toby Market Rasen 3.05 (Huntingdon 1.00); Iffeee Market Rasen 2.50 (Sedgefield 1.40); Ivy House Market Rasen 12.55 (Ayr

2.25); Lasata Wolverhampton 2.00 (Wincenton 2.45); Let's Get Lost Wolver-hampton 3.40 (Market Rasen 2.30).

hampton 3.40 (Market Rasen 2.30).

Megamusch Newton Abbor 3.35 (Woherhampton 2.40): Millo Boy Market Rasen 1.25 (Humingdon 2.30); Monsleur Le Cure Kempton 2.20 (Wetherby 2.20); Nistive Field Market Rasen 2.30 (Wetherby 1.50); Newhall Prince Wolverhampton 2.00 (Humingdon 3.00); No Near Miss Newton Abbot 1.50 (Wincartton 3.15); One Man Kempton 2.20 (Wetherby 2.20); Owens Quest Wetherby 3.20 (Humingdon 1.20); Paulific Power Market Rasen 3.35 (Hereford 1.05); Paris Choice Newton Abbot 1.20 (Market Rasen 3.35); Pride of May Sedgefield 1.10 (Market Rasen 2.30); Prize Market Newton Abbot 1.20 (Hereford 3.05). (Hereford 3.05).

Charles (12.35); Rive Crossing Sedge-field 12.40 (Wetherty 3.20); Saksiver Market Rasen 2.30 (Wolverhampton 3.40); Sesame Seed Kempton 3.20 (Market Rasen 2.30); Shallow River Sedgfield 12.40 (Huntington 12.30); Solo Gent Kempton 1.15 (Huntington 1.00); Sovereign Miche Newton Abbot 3.05 (Wincarson 2.45); Sprowston Boy Market Rasen 2.00 (Huntington 2.00); Stomy Coral Avr 2.25 (Market Rasen 12.55); Trying Again Hereford 2.05 (Huntington 1.00); Weaver George Sedgefield 3.10 (Wetherby 1.50).

sport

Kinnear adds brain to brawn

The Crazy Gang have matured thanks to their manager, says Glenn Moore

Kinnear was describing the manager's version of fantasy

He leaned back in his chair and purred: "a 40.000-capacitv all-seat stadium: 10 practice pitches with surfaces like bowling greens; a youth system six-year-old to adult with all the best kids in the city; and money to burn.

If this is what it is going to be like no wonder Wimbledon want to move. But no, Kinnear is not describing a possible fu-ture in Dublin or Cardiff; he is recalling an actual past, a job he held for six years in Duhai.

It is a long way from man-aging Wimbledon, but in the circumstances, Kinnear could be forgiven if he felt tem-porarily disorientated. The Kinnear said. "He has been mooted move to freland or monumental to this club, phe-

from a club 'Everything is which has three bases already, none staked on of which are really home. forward play team play at to make the Crystal Palace: the game more

reserves at Plough Lane: attractive and both train in the park off the A3.

Even if Wimbledon do not move, Kinnear might. He is one of the favourites to follow Jack Charlton as manager of the Republic of Ireland. All this speculation has been

accompanied by a damaging run of form that has raised the spectre of Wimbledon finally slipping out of the elite, after 10 rumhustious years among them. They began the Christmas programme without a win in 10 starts.

"We should have won several of them," said Kinnear. "We are playing better and we are getting fitter," he adds, reeling off balf-a-dozen returning serious injury victims. Significantly, they include the bulk of

Wimhledon, more than most clubs, cannot afford an injury crisis. They have had to use 27 players this season, stretching their thin resources too far. The response has, however, heen typical. They took on Newcastle with four centre-forwards. and repeated the trick away to Leeds. "Sometimes you fear the worst when you look at the sides, but we gave it a hlast it seemed to work in our favour," said Kinnear.

In both games they got the

n 8 converted transport cafe tie with Newcastle was ar-overlooking the public park where Wimhledon train, Joe so far.

Not so long ago, Wimbledon would have sought to beat a team like Newcastle by intim-idating them physically, the league points being paid for with disciplinary ones. In that match, the only bookings were for Newcastle and Wimbledon attacked down the flanks rather than with the long punt down the middle.

The change illustrated Wimhledon's development under Kinnear. The reputation lingers, but they are no longer an ugly. bruising side. Pash the Bash took his elbows to Aston Villa, and the Jones boy. having been dropped, is con-

templating a move.

"He is the last of the di-

we have been good for him. When he goes, people will pernal break. "It was a cou-

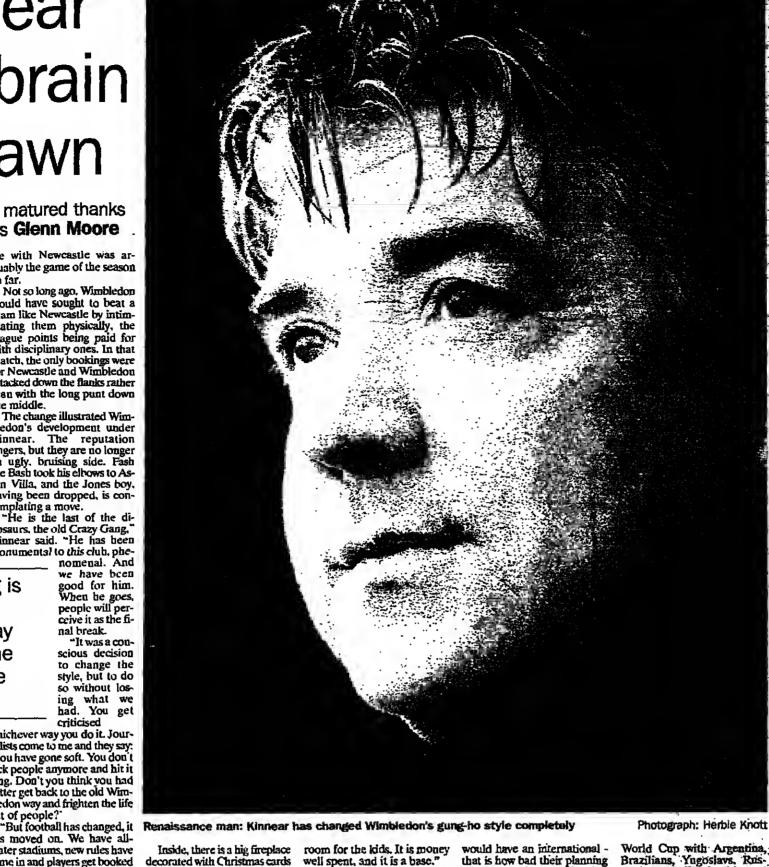
scious decision to change the style, but to do so without losing what we had. You get criticised

whichever way you do it. Journalists come to the and they say: 'You have gone soft. You don't kick people anymore and hit it long. Don't you think you had better get back to the old Wimbledon way and frighten the life

has moved on. We have allseater stadiums, new rules have come in and players get booked willy-nilly. Everything is staked on forward play to make the game more attractive. The thing you must have now as a defender is pace. The old sliding tackle I used to make is gone. I tell my defenders to stay on their feet, do not tackle in the box, get the blocks in instead. Years ago people would le in, now, if he goes down, it is a sending-off offence."

Change was not made with reluctance. A devoted, but iargon-free coach with a wall full of videos at home. Kinnear would not have been happy teaching a team to kick and chase for long.

Wimhledon's image has changed off the pitch too. Having had a jibe at the café, it is only fair to note that inside it is more homely than the trainbetter of the draw and the 3-3 Manchester United.



and pennants. Photographs of players dot the walls. Yet, when Kinnear took over as manag-er. following Peter Withe's brief, ill-fated, spell four years ago, it still was a transport café.
It was diabolical. All the truck drivers would come in the

morning, the place would stink of bacon and eggs. We would some of our lads would be go-ing in there. I remember Alan Cork and Sam [Hammam] having a cup of tea and a bacon samie then going out to train-

spending a hit on this, do it up and put the offices here. We speni £250,000 on it. Sam said: That could go towards a player'. I said: This is here for life. It is for the future, for the kids, the parents. When you show them around we have a lovely "In midwerk, we would be playtreatment room, a weights ing in the Uefa Cup and Ireland Menotti who had won the might suggest. ing facilities at Liverpool or them around we have a lovely

Wimbledon also bought the six nearest pitches on the adjacent playing fields. Undersoil heating ensures they are fit for play when the public pitches on the far side are not. An alert groundsman keeps the dogs off (incidentally, neither Arsenal or Spurs own their own training grounds).

Wimhledon. "We are a selling would not be new to Kinnear. club. We have to find £3m a year just to break even. What if we reach a stage when we do mate, offered him the job of not find them anymore. Then g. it is not a case of selling one "I said to Sam: 'What shout player, it is selling five."

Kinnear's own career was spent at the other end of the spectrum. For seven years the right-hack was often the only youth-team graduate at Tottenham. The added pressure cost him, he estimates, 25 caps. won four titles. There were both possess much sharper tac-

that is how bad their planning was. The choice was mine, but I knew if I did not play for Spurs

I might not get my place back." Kinnear has a clause in his contract guaranteeing his release if Ireland do offer him the manager's job. "If it happens, I can consider it with Sam's blessing. He has suggested I could do both, but I could not."

When he retired as a player Terry Venables, a former roomyouth team coach at QPR. But he had enjoyed travelling with Ireland and Spurs and apnlied to work overseas, beginning in Nepal. He then worked with the national squad in Malaysia and India before

moving to Dubai. "I had six years there and

3.0 unless stat

FA Carling F

World Cup with Argentina, Brazilians, Yugoslavs. Rus-sians, Dutch. The facilities and lifestyle were fantastic. I earned enough to be financially secure;

The swimming-pool life palled eventually and Kinnear, who had spent most of his holidays at Lilleshall attending coaching sessions, came back to look for a job in England. who had also been in the Gulf, made him assistant manager at Doncaster.

From there he moved to Wimhledon; first as assistant to Ray Harford then, in January 1992, as manager. He is happy there. He and Hammam get on well, he is popular with supporters and committed to the club. But Ireland attracts. Chirpy and chubby Kinnear is the antithesis of Charlton, but coaches from all over, Cesar tical minds than their image

devoid of glitter captain went ballistic over the

United are

GUY HODGSON

Leeds United Manchester United

Who could blame Alex Fergu-son if he was a little low on the Christmas Spirit yesterday? Indeed, it would be a surprise if he bothered with his turkey and trimmings at all. The way things are going he probably feared food poisoning.

In the space of eight days the Manchester United manager has seen his team's title credentials look as tatty as last year's tinsel. Two matches have been lost, five goals have been shipped and Newcastle United are so far ahead now the Ty-nesiders could lost at Old Trafford tomorrow evening almost

with impunity.

Worse still, Ferguson is losing players to injury with almost every match. Steve Bruce is the latest to succumb, limping out of Elland Road with a hamstring strain that will keep him out of action, in his words, "for a long time". With Gary Pallister also disabled with back problems United's central defence is. looking threadbare.

As indeed it was made to apear for much of this match. United, second in the Premiership but labouring, were cut to pieces by Leeds who, Fer-guson admitted, could have won by far more. Now they must face the leaders tomorrow with a makeshift defence that might include the on loan French international defender from Bordeaux, William Prunier.

"It's something we'll have to look at," Ferguson said. "At least we've got timee days to sort something out. Primier has been allowed to go home to France for the weekend and will not be back until Tuesday. I know he played well for the reserves against Derby last week."

Whatever Ferguson comes up with it can only be an im-provement on this match. He dropped David May, his best defender in the fiasco at Liverpool, and chose Paul Parker instead, a calculated risk that went wrong when the former England defender missed the ball.

at goal after 35 minutes. and opponents might as well start lining up for the kick-off and on this occasion he turned Denis Irwin inside out before chipping delicately ovet Peter Schmeichel. It was a masterful goal and effectively won the match

That had been tilted towards Leeds anyway after five minutes when Nicky Butt's hand made contact with the ball and the referce awarded a penalty. It. seemed the official might make. contact with a Bruce appercut, too, as the Manchester United

decision but fortunately Schmeichel intervened.

There were 10 reasons at least to give a free-kick in that situation," Ferguson protested later, "attackers climbing on top of defenders etc. yet he gave a penalty kick. It was a surprising decision to say the least.

Even Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, was bemused.

"I haven't got a clue why he awarded it," he said but, if the evidence of a crime was flimsy, the punishement was emphatic. Gary McAllister driving the ball

into the top right hand corner.
Buoyed by that, Leeds played some delightful football that would have probably eclipsed United even if they had been at full strength.

Brian Deane hit the bar with a chip while Yeboah was through a second time only to be denied by Schmeichel. As a consequence Leeds had to be content with just one

more goal that was inspired by the best attacking influence on the pitch, Tomas Brolin. The Swede was a joy throughout -I bought him to fulfil a certain function and he got nearer today," Wilkinson said - flicking and passing in a manner that has been absent at Elland Road since, dare one say it, Eric Can-

tona was sold.

Certainly there was plenty to ooh and ah about in Leeds 73rd minute goal, Brolin linking with Cariton Palmer on the right before dummying to shoot. As the United defenders flinched he instead chipped delicately to the penalty spot where Deane headed powerfully into the cor-ner of the net. It left Leeds supporters dele-

rious and Mancunians refelecting on a haul of three points from a possible last 15, a sombre thought lifted only by Andy Cole's 30th minute goal, only his fourth this season. Nicky Butt dispossesed Gary Speed and passed to Cole who shot on the volley was crisp and low enough to beat Mark Beeney even though the ball passed by no more than a four feet from his toes.

The £7m man was transland defender missed the ball formed by that and instead of and allowed Tony Yeboah a run a misfit he suddenly looked a striker of substance again. "The him," Ferguson said. "He had five strikes and each one was on target." For some reason the phrase "clutching at straws' came to mind.

Goulet McAllister (5 mm, pen) 1-0; Cale (29) 1-1; Yebosh (35) 2-1; Deans (72) 3-1. 1 Nevilo, Bruce (P Neville, 73), F 74), Iwir, But, Kesse, McClair, Be holes, 74); Cantona; Colo. Betweet II Gelagher (Banbury). Attendance: 39,801.

Men of the matrice Broto.

FA Carling Premiership

Coventry Liverpool Man City Middlesbrough Newcastle QPR Sheffield Wed Tottenhem Wimbledon	3 4 3 1	As No	heli est ttm tom outh	Han Han I Fi Vil Jan	m yre:	it.	1 2 1 0 2
	P	w	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	.19	14	3	2	40	18	45
Man Utd		10	5	4	36	22	35
Liverpool		10	3				34
Tottenham		9	7				34
Middlesbrough		9	6				33
Aston Vila		9	5			15	
Arsenal		8	7			15	
Nottm Forest			10	2	28	27	28
Leeds		8	4	8	26	25	28
Chelsea	19	7	7	5	18	19	28
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Everton	19	6	5	8	23	22	23
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Bolton		2				36	
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Endsleigh League First Division

Birmingham1 Tranmere
Derby3 Sunderland
Grimsby2 Leicester
Luton
Oldham Watford
Portsmouth1 Norwich
Stoke Sheffield Utd
West Brom2 Crystal Palace
Postponed: Reading v Wolves. Friday
Ipswich 2 Barnsley 2.
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3	Stockport			8				29	
2	Oxford Utd	-21	7	7				28	
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Third Division

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WEEKEND RESULTS

cond Division nemouth 2 Hull City 0 ford City 1 Oxford Util 0 ol Rovers 1 Crowe 2 ley 0 Bristol City 0 a County 1 Blackpool 1 all 0 Swindon 0 ombe 2 Strewsbury 0 omb 2 Strewsbury 0 omb 2 Constelled 2: nam 2 Brendond 2.	BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF HELLAND Prem Division: Sign 2 University College Ituli 0, Pitday: Athlone 2 Cork Cty 4: Droghe 1 St Parack's Athlone 3; Shelbourne 2 G way 0, Leading positions: 1 St Parac (P18, Pb36): 2 Sign (18-32): 8 Bohes arts (17-31). BEAZER HONES LEAGUE Premier Division Burton Albort 1 Chelmsfort 1; Glouces Cny 1 Atherstone 2; Gravesend and Nor
PWDLFAPE	fleet O Newport AFC O (abandoned); He
PWDLFAPE	fleet O Newport AFC O (abandoned); H

1 Halesowen Pouri 2: Rushder and Diamonts 3 likeston Town O: Salisbury 1 Baldock Town 1. Leading positions: 1 Rushderi (P 22, 55); Wood 2 Purfleet 1: Bromley 0 Bishop's Stort ford 2; Carshalton S Walton and Hersham

Enfield 1; Molesey O Hayes 2; Yeading 2 S Albans City 1; Yeovil Town 1 Chertsey Tow sitions: 1 Enfield | P21. 451 2 Boreham Wood (19-20); 3 Carshatton (18-Fiorentina 2 Milan 2 - Terminonale 4 Caghan 0; Juvenius 0 Pome 2 - 120 5 Aralanta 12 Padova 1 Piacenza 1; Parma 0 Vicenza 1;

Udinese 1 Ban 2: Sampdona 2 Napoli 2 Leading positions: 1 Milan (P1S, P:330); 2 Forentra (15-29); 3 Parma (15-27). DUTCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Settard O Grocongen 0; De Graafschap 5 Sparta Rotterda 2: Roda JC Yerkrade O Vhesse Amhem 1: Willem II Tilburg 1 Go Anead Eagles Deventer 2: RVC Waahnink 2 Heerenveen 3, Lead BELGIAN LEAGUE: YV Mechelen 2 St Truiden 0; Ghent 1 Cercle Bruges 5; Lomme O Lierse O: Anatierp 1 RWD Molenbeek 1: reren 1 Charlero, 1: Anderlecht 4 Germana Bieren 2. Leading positions: 1 Club Brugss (P20, Pts44); 2 Anderlecht (20-42);

3 Derse (20-37). PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting Lisbon. 4 rela da Amadora 1 Leça 0; Salgueiros 0 Bra ga O: Lema 1 Farense O; Manomo 3 Camporna opense O: Tirsense 1 Boansta 2: Gurnarães O Porto 2. Friday: Feiguleras 1 Sca 2. Leading positions: 1 Porto (P15. Pts41); 2 Sporting Lisbon (15-36); 3 Bert-

LEAGUE OF WALLES: Bangor City 3 Phyl 1: Briton Ferry 1 Barry Town & First Town Utd 4 Aberystwyth Town O; Inter Cardiff 2 Conwy Utd 1: Porthmadog 4 Llanelii 1. Other matches postponed. Leading positions: 1 Barry Town (P18, Pts44); 2 First (21-43); PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Sucke Thistie () Deverormale 1: Cove Rangers 3 Huntly 1; Peterhead 1 Fraserungs

Football Matches not on pools coupons; 3.0 unless stated

Bath City v Famborough
Dover v Welling (11.30)
Gatzehead v Morecembe
Hallfax v Southport
Hednesford v Kettering
Macclesfield v Telford

Stough v Stevenute. ICIS LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bishop's

CCS LEAGLE Premier Division: Sistron's Startand v Histon: Cherisery v Kingstorian; Durwich v Bramier; Erffield v Aylesbury (11.30); Hayes v Harrow Borough (11.15); Hendon · Vesching III. 30); Purfiele v Grays (11.0); Statum Und v Carshatton (11.30); Weston & Hersmann v Notesey (11.00); Weston & Hersmann v Molesey (11.00); Weston & Hersmann v Molesey (11.00); Berton V Washington (11.30); Charleston Konn v Basingstoke; Bartin Robers v Marton (11.30); Berton v Basingstoke; Bartin (11.30); Charleston v Von v Basingstoke; Bartin (11.30); Charleston v V Washington (11.30); Charleston v Landon v Manageman (11.30); Charleston v V Weston v Martin v Martin v Control City, Whytelegie v Ubdridge; (11.30); Second Division: Bartistea v Condon (11.0); Carwey Island v Cother Row *12.0); Edgewe v Charlon v Stephen; Hempissad v Bedford; Lasthanheed v Dorlang (11.30); Thoury v Seffron Walden; Wicham v Weverhoo (11.0); This Weston v Best Thurnock; Harrior v Henford (11.0); Legiston v Ting (11.0); Lewes v Hordam; 11.30; Karshin v Malliston; 11

v Factored Meath (11.0).

UMBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bamber Brega v Acometon Starley: Barrow v Byth Spartaris: Batrop Auchland v Spartymoor; Buston v Mattock Droyladen v Mroweley; Enlegy v Mattock Droyladen v Mroweley; Enlegy v Prockey; Gaussonough v Boston Utd; Guseley v Chorley; Lech v Hyde; Marrie v Cohyn Bay, Winston Utd v Witton Attorn. First Divisione Curbon Ashton v Ashton Utd; Eastwood Dwn v Bradford Park Avenue; Fargue; Celto v Harrogara Town (11.30); Grading - Great Harrood (2.0); Lancaster v Netherfeld; Radcliffe Borough v Leigh FMM (12.0); Wennington v Congleton; Workergton v Feetwood (2.0); Worksop v Alfreton (11.0).

(11.0: BEAZER HONES LEAGUE Premier Division: Attentions v VS Rugby (11.0): Beticos a Rustream Cheimstond v Gravesend (11.30; Chettenham v Ginucesen: Crawley v Hastens: Dorthester v Sansbury, Greekey Röves v Button Atten (11.30); Halesoven Iown v Worcesen: Riesoton v Stafford (12.0); Reuport Aff v Westwa Treft (11.0): Suzbury bown v Cambridge Cry, Madisand Division: Bedworth v Dudley (12.0); Bury Yown v Kings Lynn: Corb ; Grantham (12.0); Evenham v Redotch (11.30); Hinddey Rown v Leoseur Utd (11.0): More Green v School Borough: 112.0); Paget Rangers v Sutton Cotthesd (11.0; Hone Green v School Borough: 11.30); Fernwest v Budeng am Town (11.30); Semworth v Ruseaton Borough (11.0); Sorthern Division: Achierd v Forbridge (11.30); Brantner v Shirt & Selvedere (11.13); Conderiod v Forest Green Rower (11.30); Fisher v Wirthy; Fleet v Fersham; Hawart v Vivatanooulle (11.30); Margata v Sitting-

TODAY'S FIXTURES

POOLS	CHECK
3.0 unless stated	Third Division
A Carling Premierable	30 Barnet v Marsheld (1.0)
L Arsenel v QPR (12.0)	31 Cambridge Utd v Wigan:
Blackburn v Manchester City (8.0)	32 Cardiff v Chester

Z Aston Villa v Liverpool ... 3 Cheisea v Wimbledon (12.0) Everton v Middlesbrough ... Nottingham Forest v Sheffield Wed & Southempton v Tottenham (12.0)... West Ham v Coventry (12.0)

Endsleigh League First Division Barnsley v Stoke (12.0).

Charton v Portsmouth(12.0) 10 Crystal Palace v Luton (12.0) 11 Huddersfield v Derby ... - Leicester v loswich (11.30) 12 Normch v Southend _.... 13 Port Vale v West Brorn (12.0)..... 4 Sheff Utd v Birmengham (12.0) ... 16 Transnere v Oldham - Watford v Reading (11.30) 17 Woives v Milliwall Second Division

15 Stackgood v Burnley. 19 Brentford v Brighton (12.0) 20 Bristol City v Swansea 21 Chesterfield v Peterborousti .

22 Crewe v Wresham 23 Hull v Notts Courty --24 Oxford Utd v Bournemouth 25 Roti erham v Welsall 26 Chrewsbury v Bristol Rvis (12.0) ... 27 Stockport v Cadisle (12.0) 28 Swindon v Wycombe 25 York v Bradford City

bourner, Newport low v Bastrley (12.0): Poole y Weymouth: Weston-super-Mare y Cler (11.0): Yare v Trowbridge (11.30). GREAT MILLS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bideford v Barnstonies, Bastington v Backwell, Bristol Manor Farm v Mangotsfield (11.0); Chipperham's Caine (11.0); Emote v Twat-ton (11.0); Forme v Paulion (11.0); Odd Down v Westbury (11.0).

HEREWARD UNITED COUNTES LEAGUE HEREMARD LIGHTED COUNTIES LEASUR Premier Division: Cogenhoe Wortlambon (11.0): Hobbasch v Beston Yown (11.30): Kertostan v Wooten Bule Cross (11.0): New-port Pagnel v Long Buckty (11.0); Reunds V Welmport y Minies Bule Stands (11.0): Standard v Minies Buledstane; Saw-ers & Londs Corty v Desborough (11.0); Sundoid v Potton (11.0). INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDI AND ALLIANCE (11.0): Barwell v Hindrey Athenic Barkenial

33 Colchester v Leyton Orient (12:0) 34 Darkneton v Donosster - Exeter v Torquay (11.0) ...

35 Gilliogham v Plymouth .. 36 Hardepool v Scarborough 37 Lincoln v Fulham... 38 Northernoton v Hereford 39 Rochdale v Preston

40 Sounthorpe v Bury...... Bell's Scottish League Premier Division 41 Falkirk v Abendeen (Off) .:.

42 Hearts v Motherwell (11_00insp). 43 Partick v Hibernian .. 44 Raith Rovers v Celtic (9:30 insp) 45 Rangers v Klimamock ...

First Division 46 Airdrie v St Mirren ... 47 Clydebank v Dundee (Off) ... 48 Dumberton v Dunfermline 49 Dundee Utd v Hamilton ...

Second Division 51 Ayr v Clyde 52 Forfar v East Fife 53 Queen of South v Stenhousemuir 54 Strawaer v Berwick

50 St Johnstone v Morton.

Taird Division - Albion v Caledonian Thistie 55 Brechin v Alloa (Off)] ... 56 Cowdenbeath v East Stirling ... 57 Livingston v Queen's Park... 58 Ross County v Arbroath

Helesowen Hamers v Oldbury; Rocester v Hyn-persitey Victoria; Sandweg Borough v West Midlands Police; Shepshed Dynamo v Stapenhilt; Stratord v Pershore. JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-rision (1.0): Cacton v Harwart, Disc v Wat-ton; Graz Yamoudi v Lowestoft, Hawenid v Haisteed: March v Webedt, Newmarket v Scham; Stormarket v Hadleight, Sudbury Wandertra v Sudbury fown, Topres v Comard: Woodbridge v Feforstowe: Whosham v Feforance.

MORITH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Di-visions Bootle v Marie Road (2.30); Odfrene v Backgood Rovers; Eastwood Harriey v Ride-gove (11,0); Glossop North End v Fistors; Holker Old Bors v Perstatt, Narrawich v New-tacie fown (12.0); Rossentale v Darwen 1.0); St Heiers v Pressot (1.0); Salford v Chadderton; Skeimersdale v Burscough; Trattord v Mossion HORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEASE Pro-

v Methy (11.0); Hallern v Spotebridge (11.0); Desett Albion v Hatfield Main. LEPLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First SI-vision (LLC): Burges Hill V Hastocker (Dru-borough V Ragmer, Heilsham V Eastocume Town; Horsham YMCA v Mile Cale; Langues Source v Satmon; Pascobasen & Toksomber v Whiteshawk; PortBell V Pagham; Showham V Stuttsukher. Druc Edition V Obligan; Unice

WINSTORLEAD KENT LEASUE First Division: Beclanten v Cockential (11.0); Derived v Furness (11.0); Derived v Contentus (2.15); Telestone invicta v Ramgerte (11.30); Shappey v Chartem (12.0). LEABLE OF WALES: Abeyebyth v Caerays; Sangor City v Holywell; Barry v Ebbw Vole; Batton Ferry v Inter Cardiff, First v Corrwy; Nav-town v Cornash's Query; Rhyl v Lieneantifraid; Tor Parites v Cwelbran.

BORD SAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Deny City v Bohemans (2,45); Shamrock Rovers v Dundalk (2,15). Rugby League

STONES CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP-Braction v Halitax (3.0); Leids v Castlefood (11.30); Oldham v Warrington (3.0); Wigan v St Heleris (3.0). First Divisions Bettley v Devabury (12.30); Festiverstone v Visiteriald (11.30); Heaghley v Rochdele (3.15); Widnes v Safford (3.0). Second Division: Carllele v Barrow (2.0); Chorley v Highfeld (3.0); Hull IR v Work (3.0); Hurstet v Brantley (3.30); Swinton v Leigh (3.0).

Rugby Union TERNENT'S SCUTTISH REGIONAL LEAGUE

Hawick (2.0); Selferk v Kelso (2.0).

CLUS IMPUTCHES: Aberavon v Cardiff Institute (2.30); Asparts v Wignon (2.0); Sedford V Bedfordshire (3.0); Simminghem Solimili v Sahiliana (11.0); Camborne v Rednuti (2.30); Cardis V Prospirated (2.30); Cheller V Prospirated (2.30); Cardis V (3.0); Gloucester v Lydney (3.0); High Wycombe v Chelman's XV (2.30); Lenesti v London Welsh (2.30); London Inshi v Old Mithillians (3.0); Masses v Bridgend (2.30); Masseley v Coverby (3.0); Nesth v Borymaen (2.30); Nesport v Bristol (2.30); Northsempton v String County (3.0); Porthpool Utd v Pontypool (2.30); Peston Grasshappers v Fytic (2.15); Sale v Broughton Park (3.0); Insorthy v Pennggal (2.30); Wherledde v North Ribbestale (2.30).

R L HOLLAND MEMORGAL MATCH: Cheam: ice Hockey

ERTESH LEAGUE Premier Dissistant Sastole v Snetfield (3.0); Condit v Hothing (3.0); Fost Division: Duration v Micros (7.30); Solituli v Guidford (2.30); Telfillacture (2.20); T

Team news

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Rowell left scarred by mauling in the endless ruck

is anything but a season of dwill for Jack Rowell and, even comfortably and comfortingly faar territory watching his oncejoved Bath's epic Pilkington Cup patch of Northampton, the Eng-id manager was looking thorghly uncomfortable.

Accountability, or its apportionent between players and coaches, an age-old sporting common and in the aftermath of England's nsatisfactory though scarcely ralamitous performance against vestern Samoa the balance appears to have swung decisively igainst Rowell.

It is no exaggeration to say that n some quarters the manager has aken a metaphorical shoeing equivalent to that which, more literally, is known down under as New Zealand rucking methods and which Rowell himself attempted to instil in his England B players when they

gave a tackle-bag a memorable go-ing-over in Wanganui in 1992. He did not succeed then and he is patently not succeeding now, either in the battle to change the way his players play or in the other bat-tie, the public-relations one - which post-Samoa really has been calamitous. The well-appointed press box at the Recreation Ground neatly symbolised the dichotomy between Rowell and his accusers, with the manager one side of the glass in the

ing at him askance from the other side. And ne'er the twain did meet, nor will they if our understanding of extreme perturbation is true. All queries about England's training and selection for the French game in Paris on 20 January are referred by Rowell to Colin Herridge, the Rugby Football Union's media man, who then of course has

wireless zone and the writers look-

to ask Jack. Which is plain daft.

Anyone who heard Rowell's interview with Ian Payne on Radio Five Live will have realised that here is a man who is struggling to restrain his incandescence. Payne was doubtless glad he was far away at the other end of the line, and there came a point when the producer was anxiously wondering whether Rowell would carry on as agreed to be the second voice during the match com-

For the record, Rowell never hlamed the media - not in as many words, anyway - for the way England approached the Samoa match; the actual culprit was Will Carling, the captain, who told a television interviewer in the tunnel immediately after the final whistle that "the impression from the media was that we would put 50 points on them". It would be interesting to know what part of which medium was re-



COMMENTARY

sponsible for this misapprehension though, even if it were so, the re-sponses of both Rowell and Carling indicate that their team are astoundingly suggestible. But it seems to me the erroneous expectation came rather from an ignorant Twickenham crowd - those outside and not inside the press box - and that the poverty of England's performance owed as much to the disruption contract negoatiations with the RFU as to the way they tried to play.

Of more pressing concern for Rowell at the Rec - after he had told his radio listeners that the nation and complaisant media needed to get behind his team, that is - was the performance of the leaders of the First Division against the leaders of the Second. That Bath eked out a 12-3 victory through three Jonathan Callard penalties to one by Paul Grayson on a morass of a pitch under leaden skies would tell its own haleful tale if in fact the match had not been a magnificent spectacle fit to cheer even not-so-jolly Jack's

Indeed here were two teams committed to playing the very rugby of which Rowell has spoken so often. and tempering their free-running aspirations with occasional appropriate deference to the demands of the

if only England could manage some-

thing similar against France . . . Moreover, this tie was a lesson for the law-makers as well as instructive for the England manager. Even beforc the new imperative of professionalism there was too much tampering in the interests of enter-tainment and if ever a game showed that "entertainment" does not necessarily consist of an endless series of tries and manufactured

movement this was it.

All the talk - of which there is plenty - about removing basic elements of the rugby union game should thus be treated with contempt, because the alternative would be an ersatz concoction of next to no merit. It is time, instead, to declare ourselves unashamedly and wholeheartedly in favour of rucks and mauls, line-outs and scrums. Northampton's presence in the

be sadly missed because their in-trepid display at Bath, significantly superior to anything achieved by this season's league vistors there, proved them already to be of upper First Di-vision quality. From the actual First Division, Orrell and Sale will also be absent, the North-west's cup challenge having been ended by London in the shape of Harlequins and Wasps respectively.

Winnington Park of the Fifth Division North are the lowliest quali-fiers for the last 16. Leeds of the Fourth Division saw off Waterloo of the Second and Coventry of the Third did likewise to Blackheath of the Second. Among those joining them are Newcastle, who can now look forward to having England's most-capped stand-off eligible to play in the fifth round. Better not mention Roh Andrew to big Jack,

. Life goes on at rock bottom

Survival is the goal at Torquay, holding up the League, and in the home of Fawlty Towers a sense of humour is important as well, says Clive White

Rooted at the bottom of the this season they couldn't have Foothall League six done much worse if Basil was points adrift. Torquay running the team. An 8-1 home United is to the town's sporting endeavour what Fawlty Towers is to its hotel industry. Apparently, the local council regard the club as a bit of comedy, too, which probably ill-betits its smart English Riviera image. While Torquay Athletic Ragby Club sits resplendent beside

the hay next to the Grand Hoaway like Cinderella in a corner

largely unloved, hlame Mike that. If the team

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good footballers as the chairman railway track' is a publicist they would be top of the league.

every ruse imaginable to bring stemmed the rot. the club more success/bigger crowds, from signing Justin Fashanu to painting the visitors' dressing room a sleepy pink (or was that Fashanu's dressing room?). All to no avail.

Likewise the visit he recentopticians when results didn't bear scrutiny any more. "It players, although the later one was when I suggested they ought to have brain scans." Didn't they object? "They didn't -inderstand it," he said.

defeat - their higgest in the league for 62 years - precipitated the departure of Don O'Riordan and the arrival of Eddie May from Cardiff. Since when results have improved marginally: Now they lose 8-4, as at Walsall after extra time in an FA Cup replay, having hit both posts with one shot in the tel, poor old Plainmoor is tucked 91st minute when the score change from

ye for one no 'Torquay have able exception, and practically had more close League-sides. "Steady Eddie" who folforgotten. Not that you could calls than a lows in a line of some distin-Bateson for silent-movie guished manwere half as star tied to a Plainmoor including Frank

Bruce Rioch, has an extensive knowledge of the Third Di-Bateson, a self-made mil-lionaire, has tried just about manager and appears to have

O'Farrell and

It wasn't always like this. In Bateson's first year as chairman five seasons ago they gained promotion in the play-offs by beating Blackpool, his home town club. "I thought, 'this is a piece of cake'," he said. "In four ly made the players take to the or five seasons at most we'll be promoted to the First Divi-, out a little bit more in and try sion. Of course, we weren't. In wasn't intended as a dig at the fact we were relegated the very is what I did."

"At the start I thought a cou-



when the head starts to take year thanks to the sale of Greover from the heart. Reality takes a hold when you're physically writing out cheques for fifty and a hundred thousand pounds. Of course, by then you've gone a certain way down the road and you have to ask to turn it into a business, which

His "injections" almost turned into a complete blood ple of hundred thousand in-jected into it could help it a lot. £1.5m before he called a halt. He said they would try to run Silly me. There comes a time. He expects the club to make a with a tight but full profession-

gory Goodyear to Queen's Park Rangers for £350,000. The Bosman husiness, of course, threatens to put a stop to such nice little carners, in fact the very existence of this club and many more like it. Torquay yourself do you run away from make a heavier investment than it and let the whole thing crum- most in youth devlopment with hle around your ears or do you a dedicated officer and a purpose-built lodge. Bateson reck-ons they need to net about £150,000 a year in transfer fees

to balance the cash flow. Relegation would cost the Judging by United's fortunes however, at most football clubs profit for the third consecutive al squad for the first season in recent inquiry from a Premier rot sketch, though, Bateson, Fourth Division, even their elec-

the hope of bouncing straight League club for one of our playback. Admission prices, only £6 and £3 as it is, would have to be further reduced in what he describes as "this cold bed of foothall". He tried offering under 11-year-olds a £10 season ticket and set aside 500 places. They closed the offer after three

months, having sold 150. "Football clubs are a very strange husiness," he said, "unlike any other. Most husinesses know where they'll be in six or 12 months barring a recession or whatever. Who knows how our finances would have changed had that shot in injury Pythonesque," he said. time at Walsall gone in or if a

ers comes to fruition. Actually, if somebody like Newcastle would care to give me a ring I'll take £1 m off them for any of my players. In fact I'll take £1m off them for all of our players."

Someone once described him

as looking like a lean version of the comedian Mike Reid, but Bateson's got a much better sense of humour. He's needed it. "In the back of my mind I still can't help thinking there's something rather ridiculous about men dressed in shorts chasing a ball around a field - a little bit

Don't mention the Dead Par-

who is president of the local RSPCA, has about 40 of them in an aviary at his home - "they talk a lot of sense". His grandfather was the curator at Blackpool Zoo so he was brought up

animals. It probably explains why he vetoed the commercial department's ferret racing day. He remains optimistic that Torquay's uneventful League history will see out its 69th year. As the late Peter Cook once said of his home town club: than a silent movie star tied to a railway track." Appropriately, founder members of the

with a healthy appreciation of

tion was reputed to be the result of a dubiously contested second hallot with Aberdare.

"Barring suicide. I can see myself being here for quite a few years, but I'd rather not be," he said, acknowledging that the club with its thriving pub-cum-restaurant-cum-night club - "it's like the black hole of Calcutta on Friday and Saturday nights"would be ideal for asset-stripping. "It would have to be someone with the same spirit. If anybody has a yearning to run a south De-They've had more close calls von football club I could make it happen for them. An offer which would allow me anything approaching financial dignity

Kilmarnock set out to end the curse of the Old Firm

COTTISH FOOTBALL

hits clear of rivals Celtic,

failed recently against Celtic to m Brown believes Kil- claim their first win in 14 attempts m hoodoo today against cither of the big Glasgow clubs. "Beating either Rangers or mpions Rangers at Ibrox." Celtic can give you a massive lift Premier Division leaders and we must believe we can go train Kilmarnock only two to Ibrox and win. Brown said. "I was in our team which won 2- they conceded two goals in 60 I there a couple of seasons ago,

Brown insists Alex Totten's but in recent games against half-time and ended up losing side can succeed where they Rangers we have tended to lose 4-2 to the title-chasing Bhoys. concentration at vital times and you cannot afford that."

Kilmarnock were 2-0 op at Celtic earlier this month, Brown's header putting them firmly in the driving seat after Ally Mitchell's opening goal, but

record. The kick was also the fourth longest in NFL history.
Kansas City finished with the
NFLs best record, 13-3, beating

4-2 to the title-chasing Bhoys.

"None of us could believe what happened that day and we were all gutted in the dressingroom afterwards," Brown said.
"We feel if we had held the 2-

0 lead to half-time we would definitely have come away from Parkhead with at least a draw and maybe even a win.

Falkirk and Partick but were hammered at Aberdeen in between. We need to show some consistency, as the season is entering a vital period for us with a handful of clubs bunched to-

> Kilmarnock have battled their way to survival in the last two seasons and he believes points

gether near the bottom."

games in a short period. Any points you can pick up now can set you up for the later stages." Rangers have Paul Gas-

coigne and Oleg Salenko available after suspension, but Ally

"Since then we have beaten won over the Christmas period McCoist and Stuart McCall are could prove the difference be-tween survival and relegation. "It lan and Alex Cleland are doubtis very important at this stage ful, but Rangers will welcome when you play a number of back Gascoigne, who has been banned for two matches.

Celtic have no injury worries ahead of their visit to Raith, although Peter Grant and John Hughes complete three-match suspensions.

TODAY'S NUMBER

and I'd be gone like a rocket."

2

The number of holes-in-one in successive shots that golfers John Legarza and Tom Gahelman hit when playing together in Dayton.

lice's heroics fail to lift 49ers

erican football

coins, has become the NFTs all in receptions leader, setting the wringle season receiving lage record in the process. Hever, Rice's heroics failed to such a Super Bowl champions in 28-27 to the Atlanta Falc on Christmas Eve. The defeollowed a run of six wins in sussion for the 49ers.

Riaught 12 passes for 153 yards ainst the Falcons, the catch costing his career total to 94 ree more than Philadelphia's Monk, who came into

phia st Monk, who came into Sunda game against Chicago with receptions, but suf-fered oken arm.

Rice 7-yard reception from
Steve be in the second quarter mot him past Charley
Hemnifor the 1961 Houston
Oilers he single season reception mage leader. Rice
finished th 1,848 yards, 102 more the lennigan. Atlant hose success was or-

A Commence of the Commence of

chestrated by Bobby Herbert -who replaced the injured Jeff George late in the first half Je Rice, of the San Francis-cors, has become the NFI's 21-13 – who thew a pair of touchdown passes to Terance

Atlanta's Morten Andersen also got himself in the record books with a 59-yard field goal that gave him seven of 50 yards

1-13 – who thew a pair of puchdown passes to Terance fathis. Atlanta's Morten Andersen iso got himself in the record coks with a 59-yard field goal nat gave him seven of 50 yards or more this season, an NFL NFL STA	Seattle 26-3 to seal homefield advantage for the play-offis. MF1. Attanto 28 San Francisco 27; Houston 28 Buttato 17; Chicago 20 Philadastohia 14; Chichram 27 Altimesons 24; Green Bay 24 Petitishingh 19; Jacksontale 24 Cavetand 21; Kansas Chy 25 Sassite 3; New Orleans 12 NY Jess O; Denner 31 Caldand 28; Marri 41 St. Louis 22; Wassington 20 Carolina 17; San Deago 27 NY Glains 17; Detroit 37 Tempa Bay 10; Indianapolis 10 New England 7
Imerican Conference	M-41
ASTERN DIVISION	National Conference
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ev England 6 10 0 294 377	Arizona
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Towers look impregnable

Basketball DUNCAN HOOPER

London Towers head for the New Year with a four-point lead in the Budweiser League, despite taking an early Christmas break. Leopards provide a London double at the top of the table after Saturday's 92-80 win at Manchester Giants, where the 6ft 9in Kenny Scott scored 19 points on his debut in his latest

return from injury. The Sharks are still in touch and like Leopards are four points behind London. They won 84-75 at Newcastle Comets on Friday. Bottom of the table Hemel

Royals, chasing only their third league win of the season were ried at 83-83 with a minute to play at home to Doncaster Pan-thers. But Steve Merifield netted two late baskets and then a free throw gave Doncaster the win by five points as Hemel failed to score again.

The St Louis Cardinals signed high-priced free agents Ron Gant and Andy Benes to long contracts on Saturday, just one day after an agreement was reached to sell the team, keeping it in St Louis.

Basketball

NBA: Charlotte 87 Milam 75, Cleveland 97 Indiana 96, Ortanto 94 Detroit 79, New York 103 Toronto 91, New Jersey 98 Philadlephia 86, Minnesota 111 Dellas 98, Chicago 100 Utah 86, San Amtono 110 Houston 95, LA Cappers 107 Deriver 92, Minwaukee 115 Allarita 111, IA Lakers 102 Portland 99, Sective 118 Washington 100.

Bachweiser League (Settunday): Derby Storm 105 (Santuels 21, Medion 20, Humptrey 19) Newcastle Comets 82 (Saunders 21, Person 20, Bale 111, Manchester Gamts 80 (Robreson 22, Bales 111, Manchester Gamts 83 (Schutz 27, Semon 25, Pringle 91 Doncaster Portlers 88 (Ratiff 25, Eder 24, Mellor 16), Thames Valley Tigers 92 (Holley 24, Scantiabury 21, Milter 18) Chester Jets 87 (Boone 34, Peers 11, Mullings/Ogley 10).

The International Cricket Council has the international cricies Council has deared the Sn Lankes of balf-tamper-ing during the first Test against Australia, when the umpires warned Arjuna Ranatunga's side about the state of the balf. The ICC has also criticised the um-pires. Peter Parker and Pakistran's Khiz-er Hayat, for not changing the ball at the time.

Fourth one-day international (Auckland): New Zealong 244-8 Pakstan 212 (Satun Me-ik 581, New Zealend won by 32 runs, Series drawn 2-2. Tour match (Bristbane): Australia 1() 323-7 der (6) Biewett 1151 and 17-0 West Indies

Sheffield Steelers closed to within just four points of the British League leaders Cardiff Oevils thanks to Tim Cranston's five goals in their thrilling 8-6 win against Nottingham Parthers on

Battish League Premier Division (Saturdey):
Basingstoke Bison 2 Notingham Panthers 5,
File Flyers 4 Newbastie Warnors 1, First Division: Ballingham Bornbers 1 Blackburn
Blackburks 12; Bractinel Bees 15 Solftudi
Bornors 2; Cheimstord Chreitans 10 Peterborough Printiss 10; Dumftles 1 Manchester
Storm 9; Medway Bears 3 Guiddonf Flames
S; Murrayfield Royals 1 Swindon Wildiams 19;
Teitord Tigers 8 Pausley Prates 5
NHL (Settunday): Boston 7 Tampa Bay 5,
Philadelphia 3 Hardard 3 IOTI, NY Islanders
3 Washington 1, Florida 2 New Jersey 1, Montreal 1 Pitsburgh 0, Tomoto 6 Edmonton 1,
Winnipeg 2 St. Lous 1, Chicago 2 Dellas 0,
Buffalo 4 Ottawe 2, Colorado 2 Los Angeles
2 IOTI, Detroit 1 Vancouver 0.

Rugby League

Stones Contenery First Division (Christmas. Eve): Huddensteid 10 Hut 23. Seturday: SRk Cut Cheffenge Cup Second round replay: Egemont 13 Woolston 6.

Rugby Union

SPORTING DIGEST

Rob Warnwright, the Scotland captain who played for West Hardepool in the Pikington Cup on Saturday, will join Wassonians in the New Year. "It was always going to be Edinburgh Arademicals or Watsonians but when Academicals were relegated the decision was then easy." he said.

easy, "he said. Southof Scotland produced their strongest display so far in the Scotlish inter-district championship to record their second victory at Murrayfield, beating Glasgow 23-5 on Christmas Eve.

gow orseres results inter-Provincial Championships: Connacht 11 Munster 46, Lenster 31 Ulster 3.

11 Munister 46, Lenister 31 Ulster 3.
Plidington Cop fourth round: Bath 12
Northampton 3, Bedford 27 Worcester 12, Blackheath 9 Coventy 19, Camberley O waterfield 18, Eveter O Lencester 27, Goucester 47
Walsall O, Leats 20 Waterloo 15, London Issh
21, London Welsh 3, Newcastle Godform 26
Moseley 5, Nothingham 32 London Scottish
16, Orreft 17 Harleguns 19, Reading 7 Bristol 44, Sale 9 Wasps 18, Sandens 27 Rugby 7, Weston-super-Mare 9 West Hardlepool
25, Winnington Park 26 Lydney 11.
Helineken Welsh, League First Division: Abertilleys 30 Newport 50, Carlft 28 Neath 3, Erboy
Vale 25 Sentreea 0, Newbords 25 Bridgend
22, Treporty 10 Lisanell 43

22, Incorny Julianes 43 26
Second bildstor: Castphilly 13 Pontypool 6, Masting 27 Bonymaen 14, Tentry 9 Liandously 12, Ystradigmias 16 Abertypoon 11.
Scottish Tennoris Championship Regional League East one: Edinburgh Wanderers 15 Boroughrum 32, Prestor Lodge 32 Currer 7, East two Cortonoris 22 Duride HSPP 26, Kirkcaldy 0 Edinburgh Academicals 55

South: Langnoim 3 Peebles 18. West: Ayr 37 String Lourny 20, Clasgow Academicals 10 West of Scotland 23. Cub matches: Bern Hill 37 Hereford 15, Rumningsam Solmul 11 Bromsgrove 8, Fylde 28 Vale of Lure 10. Havarn 24 Brumstmouri 20. Henley 22 Mandemhead 13, Kendal 15 Maddlestrough 3, Morley 41 Bradford & Brigley 17, Norm Weisham 22 Normeth 9, Numeaton 9 Cheftenham 31, Radruth 24 Pertzance 5, Radrumd 63 High Wycombe 15, Sondal 35 Ob Crossleyans 0, Sheffield 3 Harrogate 25, Stourbridge 50 Whitchurch 19.

Tosanoumi, who upset Takanohana and American Akebono during the last tour-nament, was promoted by one step to somusubin the fourth highest rank in the sport – in rankings for the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament released yesterday.

Steffi Graf, accompanied by her mother, Heidi, and brother. Michael, visited Peter Graf Friday in the Mannherm prison, where he is in investigative custody, the Bild am Sonniag newspaper reported. Peter Graf is not allowed to receive Christmas presents and Steffi could only give him some fruit and bacuits bought in the prison store. Bild said.

Rober Orange Bowl International Terms Championships Illiamir: Boys angles final: M. Zabaleta (Arg. or. T. Haas (Gen. 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 50ys doubles final: N. Oralizara (Ven. M. Zabaleta (Arg. or. T. Haas (Gen. 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4, Girls angles final: Akhumakova (Rust of S. Nacuk. nug. 6-3, 6-2, Girls doubles final: G. Casonut M. Zavagi (III) of A. Kournakova E. houlkovskaya (Rust. 6-1, 6-3).

Italo Cerullo and Matt Tench pose the questions from another puzzling year

The Independent Sports Quiz of '95

36

Put names to the faces which have been blanked out during famous sporting events of 1995.

NUMBERS GAME

1 Why were England still in with a chance facing the final ball of the match against Australia A when needing 31 to win?

2 What is the next number in the sequence: 4, 4, 0, 4, 4... and

3 For whom was 49 a suitably

and 20.25 significant?

Super number? 4 For whom were the numbers 200

5 For whom was 4 the last instalment of 8,900?

6 Who scored a masterful 70, 67, 69, 68 and why was his win tinged with sadness?

7 Complete the sequence: 16-13, 16-16, 16-19, 19-19, 19-22, 22-22...

8 Which record-breaking metch saw the winners score 21 tries and 20 conversions. What was the score and who scored six tries?

9 Which colonial enterprise took 85 seconds to sink without trace?

10 For whom was 45 feet not far enough?

11 In which sport did women hit 12 For whom were 17,98, 18.16 and 18.29 very special numbers?

13 For whom were 185, 492 and 645 very special numbers?

14 Whose debut resulted in 7 for 43 at Lord's?

15 For whom was 112 a Silva

CASHINCENTIVES

16 For whom was £150,000 an unduly taxing figure?

17 Which sports body showed distinct political incorrectness in turning down sponsorship worth £10m, and why?

18 For whom was £425,500 not worth it?

19 Which teenagers were worth £2.5m and £2m?

20 Who paid whom \$100m to dress grunge, not to shave and wear ear-rings?

15 MINUTES OF FAME

How did the following find themselves in the spotlight in 1995?

21 Matthew Simmons

22 Derek Ringer 23 Mark Johnston-Allen

24 Caroline Hall

25 Murphy Jensen

COURT CIRCULAR

Match the following to the locality of their court appearances

26 Dennis Wise

27 Eric Cantona 28 Peter Graf

Me Ma Liv Tot Ars Noi Lee Chr Bla Eve She Sol Mar Witt Gov Bolt

En

Fir

Birm Deri Grim Lutc Oldi: Port Stok Wes

Dert Sunk Leick Birm Huck Char Stok Norv Stok Norv Milm Oldh-Irani Barn Cryss Ports Read Watt Port West Port West Port West

29 Ouncan Fenguson

30 Ray Parlour

Hong Kong, Croydon, Edinburgh, Mannheim, Horseferry Road. PLACES

31 At which unlikely venue did De-Freitas, as twelfth man, help his side to victory this summer?

32 How did Brighton make it into

33 In which sport did a Canadian

beat a Monegasque at Eastbourne? 34 Stockholm was the venue as Norway beat Germany to lift the World Cup. In which sport?

35 In which race did London and Manchester beat Birmingham. Sheffield and Bradford?

-serigmas stand of Israf nobeldmiW 70 Goran Ivanisevic, after losing the

QUOTES

tance lob that won the Cup-Winners' Cup 69 David Seaman on Nayim's long-distack on a Crystel Palace fan. 68 Paul Ince (allegedly) to the Selhurst Park crowd, after Cantona's kung iv at-Twekenham. England lost 14-24.

international against South Africa at 67 Mike Catt before England's rugoy 66 Jonathan Edwards. 82 Chris Eubank FA Cup final.

had beaten Manchester United in the 64 Neville Southall, just after Everton 63 Michael Atherton of the Ashes

mom a brain turnour. his coach Tim Gulllyson was suffering Sliriw negO neitstrauA anti ni nwob evo! of Crowd to beat Jim Couner from two set ed Pete Sampras responded to the Sheffield United. 61 Dave Bassett, erstwhile manager of

مين. معيا

Moud Senes. beat the Cleveland Indians in the 60 Basebail. The Atlanta Braves 199gnT slouod ea

ed by e sudden-death extra-time the first Wembley final to be decid-Windscreens Shield - made the game egainst Carlisle United in the Auto 58 The goal - for Birmingham City

57 Costantino Rocca and Howard who won with Alderbrook and Master 26 Norman Williamson and Kim Bailey

AUD EOR THE CUP

. 🕽

55 Craig McDemott. .(61et ni 197nm 1973, 1974 and 1977) and Rubstic (the 54 Red Rum (who was the winner in 53 Fred Perry. One racing after a protonged struggle. 52 Lotus who pulled out of Formula

51 Romano, who left Bercelone to join COMING AND GOING

50 He scored with a header Devon and Comwall police. 49 He is now a special constable with left ferrari for Benetion. 48 Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger who 47 18-year-old South African Paul

ballers' Association, with Maradona as -foot lanciesatord lancusment ant 34 -OBUSIST STORED TERRIBO. 44 He wore white boots. et), Brazil (football).

43 Australia (rugby), West Indies (crickty following the murder of a Genoa fan. their opponents' shirts in a show of uni-42 Teams had taken the field weamig 'JNO1 SƏ ALL Each was broken to end their Ash-

SELOND SETTEL

. Sphie fifth Test at Irent Bridge. ni tesish mori bregra bavaz qiriznen need at the Open.

38 Amold Paimer during his last ever necum after serving his ban. 37 Eric Cantona, celebrating a scoring Torrany Morrison in October. 36 Lennox Lewis, having just floored

ETHE FACE FITS

-siz lenotish wan art not nodeool arti 25. 34 Women's fooball. in the Davis Cup. 33 Termis - Greg Rusedski for British testoto Cup game. 32 The Goldstone Ground hosted an In-.etho-yeld orth nr. garbees Azanege ntw E-A

S'notioe ni solvet beroos astranted ne

31 At Wembley, when substitute Fabi-

30 HOUR YOUR -29 Edinburgh Court of Session 28 Mannheim 26 Horselfany Road Magistrates Court 39 Richard Bingworth (1811) and 40 Milke 27 Croydon Magistrates Court Waterson after their isst wicket part. COURT CIRCULAR

> 25 Went missing from Wimbledon to 80 Insminah mit ya: 24 Wanbledon ball-gir struck by ball hit anago is

notement intermed of the Bounement Internation 23. Beat Stephen Henday in the first he won the world rallying championship 33 He was Coffin McCrae's co-driver as TT VE COUDURS KNUE IN MCMUP PIFTEEN MINUTES OF PAME

. Chathing confused. 20 Nike baid Andre Agassi (10-year loined new clubs for huge fees onw (loogravia or liewilliw) yearnest stead one

Hauge, but was still bernred for e year eyas an utsolicited gift from agent from from sitt bedroseb eld imerisma segrosa, sur. -turn yadilizi sam josunds pasodord atri TY The Morness, Tennis Association.

those tuns as Kent lost the Benson & Denote orm selle so statuters at 14 Dominio Cork isonth from Jest against South Africa. and 384 bands only notatily bands (\$2. Br3 nt assuring 243 nt also 284 mon

(sproser grin) South thow sin) statement the world thise TI CHOSE - THE ZEOTH SITEMORESIN OF

s play on defeat by John Dely. 19 Costantino Rocca, whose long-range

Self, in self, engly and self, in self, se

44 How did Milan's Marco Simo dazzle yet still fall to impress in the European Cup final against

41 What linked Alec Stewart's teer, Darren Gough's foot and Shau

42 Why did Serie A players swe-shirts before their matches start on 12 February?

43 Which three countries did Etland play on the same weekendst

Udal's thumb?

45 Who pinched and slapped Wimbledon umpire Bruno Rebeuh

46 Which "super team" was un-velled in Paris and included Vialli, Ween, Cantona, Rai and captained browaradoha?

Whose "fing in a blender" action ha caused England problems.

48 Who deserted the Prancing Horse for the knitted sweater?

49 Why won't Nigst Mansell be setting new motorsport records with his

56 Why didn't Peter Schmeichel need to use his hands against Rotor

COMING AND GOING

51 Who returned to Rio? 52 For whom did the wheels finally stop turning after 43 years?

53 The last British man to succeed at a British sporting institution died this year. Who?

54 Which two Grand National winners went to the great stud farm in the sky?

55 Which bowler took the final Test wickets of Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting in the same innings?

UP FOR THE CUP 56 Which jockey and trainer double act completed the first Champion

Hurdle and Gold Cup success for 45 years, and with which horses? The Rydel Cup saw two holes in-

Who by? 58 Why was Paul Tait's goal at

Wembley historic? 59 Which colf shot to victory in the Ascot Gold COp?

· 4 (4)

- - -

60 in what sport were Indians beaten

DON'T QUOTE ME

61. It did not matter whether End Cantona or Mickey Mouse kicked him; he should not have reacted:" Which manager and of which club, said this of his player, Charlie Hart-

62 "Do it for your coach, Petel" Which Pete? Who is his coach? Why did it need doing?

63 We came here with a shortterm ambition which failed: I don't think we have made any progress a Who made this bleak assessment?

66 Who did Mickey Duff call

with said "I'm just going home

66 They probably think I'm on drugs or something." Who said this? 67 Who called François Pienaar

"average" and why did he come. 68 "Come on, we'll take you ain

Who said this when? 69 "The Gazza free kick in the Cup semi-final was bad enough

This was worse." Who was reflecting on what?

70 "Alf the match I was unjuct Most of the time, he hit a luci shot." Which ungracious loseras

The first heart of the particular of the particu

anterped higher bence a set a

day's television & radio

pick of the day

REEN TWO: THE MOUR OF he medieval costume may not be ... s fetching as his Darcy breeches. Jut Colin Firth watchers will get a shance to see plenty of their bero in this drama based around actual court cases, recorded in the French. count cases, recover in the metric town of Abbeville in the Middle Ages. The twist is that the defendants were all animals, as Firth's lawyer has to



Swine defence league: Colin Firth

To redress the balance for the Scots having colonised New Year's Eve on television — all that hoots monaing round the haggis while Andy Stewart searches for his troosers—much of the Christmas schedule was devoted to pondering the state of Englishness. (Quite where this leaves Irish and Welsh viewers is unclear - down the pub, presumably, like anyooe sensible.)

This seasonal theme began with A Close Shave (Christmas Eve BBC2), the latest from the country's finest film-maker, Nick Park. Wallace and Gromit, Park's Plasticine protagonists, are perfect English heroes: constipated, suburban, confused. The England he has created for them - all wool shops, Wensleydale and wacky wallpaper -After encountering a mad slot-machine on the moon and a satanic pair of strides in their own home, in their third outing Wallace and Gromit are faced with their toughest foe yet: Preston, the psychotic pit buil - no simple dog, but a cyborg whom muzzle cannot contain. This Schwarzeneg-



review Jim

inventioo (a knitting machine) and abuses it for his own evil purpose (to mush sheep into dog food). Only Gromit can stop him, since frankly Wallace would have difficulty

stopping a cheque. As always, the joy of Park's work lies in the details - the bungee-rope windowcleaning device which, inevitably, goes wrong; the dog's newspaper, The Telegruff; Gromit's face. But with ever more money is charged with a Luddite vision: technology to realise his amhitions, Park's set-pieces find quite so many cosy corners and twee will, inevitably, turn malevolent on you. Thunderbirds pastiche as the pair set off on as Westminster Abbey: "It's a nice little their motorbike to clean windows (Wallace, as always, adrift in it all, yelling "whoaaah" as he teetered on the brink of disaster) was simply the best thing oo TV this Christmas. Alan Bennett, surely the role-model for

An odd choice, you might think; so much School looking grumpy in morning chapel more appropriate at this time of year to explore the Lakeside shopping centre.
Thurrock. But Bennett decided to spend most of the holiday in The Abbey (Christmas Day BBC2), wandering around Westminster, being wry. One thing with Alan Bennett as your guide, you know things aren't going to get too technical: "There seems to be another chapel there and some sort of rampart beyond that," he began. He was drawn to Westminster, he said,

because it was "a royal peculiar", a phrase he repeated time and again, rolling it around his mouth as he might a barm cake and a nice cup of lapsang souchong. Only he, a bit of a royal peculiar himself, could chair," he said, faced by the Coronation throoe, "they might do away with the lions it stands on and put it oo rockers instead."

Not that he was all nice; those acidic verbal constructions which are his trade-Walface, had an intriguing way to celebrate mark knifed in with regularity. "Look at hlazer, flanking John Redwood in the ger of a mutt steals Wallace's latest the English Yuletide he went to a church, them," he said, of boys from Westminster court of the Euro-sceptics.

in the Abbey, "armoured in their careful langour," No better description has been coined for a bunch of English public schoolboys. But you couldn't help noticing. as they raked the flop of hair out of their eyes, pinched their mouths and sighed, how much like Alan Bennett the boys looked.

England My England, the film which took up most of C4's Christmas evening schedule (and, judging by its lavishness, most of the channel's budget too) had a much less engaging vision of England's condition. Ostensibly a hiography of Hemy Purcell (the soundtrack was fabulous). it was, in reality, the last cantankerous soapbox John Osborne climbed aboard. "The Commoo Market," hectored Simon Callow as his hero and mouthpiece, "is a drab name for such a monumental swindle, the higgest con since some German ad man thought of putting wholesale murder oo the market as National Socialism." A pity he died this year - how fine the angry old man would have looked in a vociferous

film of the day

9pm C4

Ken Loach's first film still stands as one of his best - a low-key adaptation of Barry Hines's novel about a boy who finds solace from his harsh environment, bullying schoolmates and family by training a kestrel. Touching, truthful performances are extracted from the youngsters, and 14-year-old David Bradley in particular.



David Bradley in search of a friend

BBC 1

7.00 Children's BBC: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (5077220).
7.05 The Greedysaurus Gang (5076591), 7.10 The Snow Queen (2305171), 7.35 Opus and Bill (7229171), 8.00 Fireman Sam (5844930), 8.20 Playdays (6994539). 8.40 White Christmes (3510775). 9.10 Peter Pan and the Firstes (5845978). 9.30 The Legand of Prince Valiant (1844442). 9.55 Eek the Cat (4978152). 10.20

Record Breakers (2448607).

10.45 Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (Ken Annakin 1965 UK). Much-loved comedy jaunt set in 1910, in which the likes of James Fox and Eric Sylves try to fly from London to Paris in the fastest time and collect £10,000 offered by a newspaper editor (42605084), *

12.50 News; Weather (12968084). *
12.55 Local News, Weather (12967355).
1.00 Neighbours. Karl spots Libby kissing Like – shock,

horror (S) (89992978). * 1.20 The Two Ronnies. Their Christmas special from 1987, featuring Etton John and Charlton Heston (R)

2.10 FIEE Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (Steven Spielberg 1989 US). The comic relationship between Hamson Ford and Sean Connery, as his father, is the best thing about the otherwise mediocre; seen-it-before second sequel. River Phoenix plays the young. Indy (S) (323238). *

4.10 Disney Time. Michaela Strachan in Norway gives the traditional seasonal plug to Disney products (S) (5318797).

4.50 Final Score (1701688). 5.15 News; Weather (3175713). * 5.25 Local News, Weather (6246336).

5.30 Cartoon (938510). *

5.40 Neighbours (R) (SI (661201). * 6.05 FRM Beethioven (Brian Levant 1992 US). American family discovers a comedy St Bernard and adopts it. With the perennially underrated Charles Grodin

(8752572), * 7.30 EastEnders (S) (249). * 8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Seasonal single and the state of the seasonal single state of the seasonal state of the seasonal single state of the seasonal seasonal state of the seasonal se diverting time-travel sitcom, starting the bolist Lyndhurst (908862). 8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Ben Eton cop Sre

Grim chasing some dangerous carol singers (S) 9.20 EMR Patriot Games (Phillip Noyce 1992 US). Ho-hum, highly implausible yem with CIA specialist. Harrison Ford coming out of retirement to protect his family from Sean Bean's Irish accent and his violent,

terrorist ways (S) (73767978). *
11.10 News; Weather (118404). *
11.25 (Desire Clockwise (Christopher Morahan 1986 UK). -Excellent, well-observed comedy in which punctuality-

obsessed headmaster John Claese goes to pieces in a desperate bid to address a headmasters' conference in Norwich (S) (187775). *

1.00 Lisa Stansfield in Concert. In 1994, at the Royal. Albert Hall (22553). 2.00 Weather (8547195). To 2.05am.

BBC 2

7.00 East City Lights (Charlie Chaplin 1931 US). Charlie Chaplin classic in which he plays a tramp who tries to raise money for an operation to help's blind flower-siri

8.25 Mame (Gene Sales 1974 US). Thoroughly amberrassing musical with sixtysomething Lucille Ball squawking her way through the songs as a "freespirited" aunt transforming everyone's lives. A camp

classic (62482317). *

10.30 The Voyages of Charles Darwin. First in recycled six-part series (R) (18571).

11.30 Celebrity Maintsipiece. Michael Hordem revealed through his knick-knacks (4223355). *

11.45 The Adventures of Quentin Durward (Richard Thorpe 1955 UK). Robert Taylor swashbuckles his way through 15th-century Burgundy. With Kay Kendall, Robert Morley and Wilfrid Hyde White

1.20 Anne Frank Remembered. Riveting, thoroughly moving documentary about the young Dutch wartime

diary-keeper – deserved winner of a recent international Emmy (R) (95353201). *
3.20 EMM My Feir Lady (George Cukor 1964 US). Over-long but otherwise fine version of the Lemer and Loewe musical, with Audrey Hepburn perhaps a tad refined as Eliza, and Rex Harrison a touch world-weary as Professor Higgins (5) (4461.3751). * 6.05 The Churkas, Ian Woolridge celebrates the Nepalese

soldiers who fight for Britain (S) (126510). * 7.05 Pride and Prejudice: From Page to Screen (R) (420317). *
7.35 Sylvie Guillern. New three-part series in which the

French dancer invites dancers and choreographers to explore new ways of bringing dance to the screen. Tonight: Mats Ek (S) (137355). 8,00 The Abbey with Alan Bennett. 2/3. Bennett makes

his mordant way to the north transept (S) (910572). 8.55 Close Up. Robert McKee on Erich Von Stroheim's Greed (S) (965591). *

9,00 A to Z of ATV. R is for Repeat (R) (256355). 9.20 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV Special, From 1987 (R) (958442): *·

10.00 Elli Screen Teac. The Hour of the Pig. Based on true cases from rural medieval France, where animals were considered capable of committing crimes and tried as such. Colin Firth plays an idealistic Parisian murder and, yes girts, he takes his clothes off. See Pick of the Day (S) (879959). * 11.55 In Faust (Jan Svankmajer 1994 Cz/UWFr).

Specially commissioned by the BBC from the great Czech animator, this beautiful, haunting telling of the Faust legend uses a mix of puppetry and live action (S/ (796607).

1.30 FEM The Body Snatcher (Robert Wise 1945 US). Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi go grave-robbing in 1830s Edinburgh - or Hollywood's idea of 1830s Edinburgh - in an entertaining take on Robert Louis Stevenson's Burke and Hare-inspired story (8635447).* 2.40 Weatherview (5150973). To 2.45am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. News. 6.05 Features special, 7.00 News. 7.30 Barney. 8.00 Galaxy High. 8.30 Starta and the Jewel Riders. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers

9.25 Mole's Christmas. Animation adapted from a chapter of The Wind in the Willows, and voiced by Peter Davison and Imelda Staumton (R) (S) (8225404).

10.50 The Snow Queen. Animated Hans Christian

1.00 Take That at Earl's Court. Second part of the boys' concert from London earlier this year (1960862). 2.05 Petum of the Pink Parither (Blake Edwards

4.10 Title Her Alibi (Bruce Beresford 1989 US). You might need an alibi if caught watching this stale romantic comedy in which mystery writer Tom Selleck (implausibility number one) tries to prove the innocence of a mysterious foreign woman

documentary this month? (84065). 7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. With a special guest appearance by Gladiator Hunter. Ulrika's husband

8.30 Cadfael. Derek Jacobi returns as the sleuthing 12th century monk - investigating the rape, murder and encasement in los of a nun. Terence Hardman, co-

stars and Hundary stands in for Shrooshire (31336). 10.00 The Beatles Anthology. The Beatles meet the Meharishi, and Brian Epstein dies (S) (6442). *
News. Weether (475201). *

11.10 FIRST Deed Poets Society (Peter Weir 1989 US). It's 1959, and unorthodox teacher Robin Williams arrives at a stuffy New England school and inspires the pupils

1.35 First Michight Crossing (Roger Hobberg 1988 US). Convoluted years in which Daniel J Traventi takes blind and unsuspecting wife Faye Dunaway on holiday to a Caribbean Island in order to retrieve some stolen

for his mistress (535669). 5.00 it's Xmas, it's Number One. To 5.55am.

Play (7694089).

adventure yarn with Raquel Welch and John Richardson (39012). 12.00 Robin Hood: Men In Tights

(1993). Cornedy starring Cary Elwes and Richard Lewis. Mel Brooks sends up the Robin Hood legend in

sease up the routin mode legato in this lively comic spoof (41423). 2.00 3 Ninjas (1992). Martial arts adventure for chârters. Stars Victor Wong, Michael Treanor and Max Eliott Stade (57959). 4.00 Free Nation (1978).

Willy (1993). Delightful children's adventure about a boy who tries to

tree a whale from a marine park (7249). 6.00 Beethover's 2nd (1993). Comedy starting Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, Lovable St Bernard Beethoven falls for Missy.

Bernard Beetraven tails for Missy, an attractive bitch who belongs to the heartless Regina. Pretty soon they have brought four cuts pupples into the world, but evil Regina is hatching a pick to steal them (60423). 8.00 Robin Hood: Men in Tehts (1993). Denethy staning Cary

Tights (1993). Cornedy starting Cary

Elwes and Richard Lawis. Mel Brooks sends up the Robin Hood

legend in this lively comic spoof (72268), 10.00 The Favor (1994).

Cornedy starring Harley Jane Kozak and Elizabeth McGovern, Married

SIG MOVIES

Channel 4

6.40 Utysses 31 (R) (1679510). 7.05 The Advertures of T-Rex (2373572).

7.30 Little Dracuta (R) (33978). 8.00 The Big Breakfast. With footballer Jamie Redknapp, D:Ream, the Sugdens from Emmerdale and Nicola Quilter from Horne and Away (15084). 10.00 The Morning Line. Today's horse-racing previewed

(S) (1181751). (3) (1.61751). 10.25 Babyton 5 (R) (S) (3038249). * 11.20 California Dreams (R) (4876571). 11.45 Biter Mice from Mars (2101220). 12.10 Super Mario Brothers (3833794).

12.20 Dennis (8183959).

12.30 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton. The King George VI Tripleprint Chase is the day's big race at 2.20pm and there's coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 and 2.50 races (S) (32697317).

3.15 Dido and Aeneas. Purcell's opera is staged with a novel mixture of music and dance (choreographed by Mark Morris). Singers include Jennifer Lane and

broadcaster Ted Koppel and Francis Ford Coppola are among those paying tribute to the puppeteering innovator behind Sesame Street and the Muppets (S) (28357341). *

what Christmas is like for dogs, by visiting the country's

6.45 Worries (David Effick 1993 Aus). Charming drama about a young girl from the Australian outback who is relocated to Sydney when her parents' sheep farm goes bust, and finds her bearing with the help of another outsider - a young Vietnamese refugee (73323539).

8.30 Brookside. Rosie's bad deeds catch up with her as the Christmas presents are returned (S) (1423). *
9.00 INST Kes (Ken Loach 1969 UK), Loach's first film is a deeply touching depiction of a boy (the extraordinarily naturalistic David Bradley) finding solace from a grim northern council estate and his dysfunctional family by

1.05 Just for Laughs. Stand-up comedy from Montreal hosted by Frank Skinner (889355), *

11.35 Whose Line is it Anyway? Clive Anderson hosts compiled highlights of the improvised comedy show (487171).

12.05 American Football (7813805). US). FBI agent Mark Stevens infiltrates a vicious oriminal gang headed by Richard Widmark in this engrossing thriller. (680440).

3.00 Rawhide (64350). 4.00 The World of Hammer. Narrated by Oliver Reed. This week, science fiction (R) (90963114). To 4.25am.

ITV/Regions

NIGLIA 6.00am GMTV (8147404). 9.25 Mole's Christmas (8225404). 9.55 Talespin (4963220). 10.20 The Forgotten Toys (1286305). 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen (7224930). 12.20pm News (8185317). 12.30

6.00am GMTV (8147404). 9.25 Mole's Christmas (8225404), 9.55 Talespin (4963220), 10.20 The Forgotten Toys (1286305), 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen

WESTCOUNTRY
6.00am GMTV (8147404), 9.25 Mole's Christmas
68225404), 9.55 Talespin (4963220), 10.20 The Forgotten Toys (7.286305), 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen
(7224930), 12.20pm Naws & Weether (8165317), 12.30
Emmertiale (760-46), 1.00 Take That at Earl's Court
(1960862), 2.05 Film: Return of the Pink Parther
(42662775), 4.10 Film: Her Albi (59402030), 5.50
News (849133), 6.00 Gotdensye: The Sernet Files (84065),
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale (7171), 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People (1046), 8.30 Cacinel (31336),
10.00 The Besties Artifoliogy (6442), 11.00 News
(475201), 11.10 Film: Dead Peots Society (6065540-2),
1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973), 3.20am The
Crart Strow (7197114), 4.15am On the Live Scie (78175),
4.45-5.55am Film: Clancy Street Boys (3189089).

TYKE TEES/YORKSHIKE

As London

As London except: 12.30-1.00pm The Munsters To-

6.00 Newyddion (584/94), 6.10 5 Purinp: Prijpin Y Goeden Nodolig (138539), 6.40 5 Purinp: Friji (823355), 7.00 Cein Gwlad (876423), 7.45 Pavarot-b Yn Llangollen (990584), 8.45 Newyddion (779775), 9.00 Y Mapiwr (94489881), 10.50 Brookside (222065), 11.20 Absolutely Xmas Animals (739930), 12.05-1.20am American Footbelf (7813805).

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8Mbz PA) 8.00mm Simon Mayo with PJ and Ouncan 12.00 Nicky Campbell Meets Kelth Richards 3.00 Dave Pearce 7.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 Star Review: Bruce. Orckinson 10.00 Bon Jovi Live at Wembley 12.00 Mark Tonderai 4.00-8.00am Claire Sturgess

Radie 2

(08-99) 2000 円形

Truce 6.00 Dame Judi Dench Presents Music on the Brain 7.00 The Huddines Bumper Christmas Annual 7.30 Superhero Hall of Fame

8.30 Superhero Hall of Fame

8.30 Sinatra: the Other Side 9.00

Across the Board See Choice:

10.00 The Christmas Robbin

10.00 The Christmas Robbin 10.30 The Martin Keiner Music Show 12.05 Sue McGarry 3.00-5.00am Alex Lester

Quintet, Telemann: Festive Suite fin A. Strauss: Second Watz Se-Quence (Der Rosenkavaber). Han-glei: Ombra cara (Radamisto). per Umpra cara (Radamisto). Highn: Le Bai de Beatrice d'Este. 10 Morning Collection with Paul Sambaccini, Tchaldovsky: Suite: wan Lake. Antonio Sacchini:

Sonata in B flat. Op 109. Holst: Scherzo, Trad, arr Hoist: Persone

hode (carol). 12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saens. Planistes Extraordinaires, Romance in D flat, Op 37, Plano Trio No 1 in F, Op 18; Variations on a Theme of Beethoven, Op 35. 1.00 News, The BBC Orchestras, BBC

Philhamono/Yan Pascat Tortales, 1990, Philhamono/Yan Pascat Tortales, Garnot Ohlason (pasno), Walter Overture Der Franchistz, Brahms: Prant Spocarto No. 2 in B flat. 2.05 Oxididas Organs. (176), 2.50 Amitendam Manifer Fascinal, Interdiginal by Manuferia, Regions. Thomas Hampson sings the suc-oud of hier archals featuring the substance and plane.



selling toy on the planet. Then Boxing Day amusement in Across the Board (9pm R2), a history of Monopoly, the best-selling board-game on the planet.

7.30 Amsterdam Mahler Festival.
Five Ruckert Lieder: Ich atmet einen Linden Dulft, Liebst du im Schonheit, Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder, Um Mitternacht, Ich bin der Welt abtranden gefommen; Symphony No 4 in G. 9.10 The Fortunate Cat. (2/5).

newly discovered theatre pieces by Louis Grabu

Radio 4

9.35 (FM) Shell Lives Christmas Special See Choice. 10.00 (FM) News; La Mia Italia. 10.00 (IM) Daily Service. 10.15 (IM) Childran's BBC Radio 4. A Ghost for Christmas. (1/5). 10.30 Walters' Festive Frolics. John Walters discovers that Christmas comes early for some, as coach trippers from across the country descend upon the sessible town of Eastbourne. (2/5).

Deconstruct a small child's devoted to Barble (left), the bestdeconstruct the rest of the family's

Today is Saturday. Caron Keating recalls the anarchic thrill of TISWAS. (2/5).

12.25 (FM) The Heritage Quitz. 12.55 Westher 1.00 The World at One. (FM only

wright Arthur Miller talks to Christopher Bigsby about the early years of his life. (1/4). 4.05 Radio Lives: Frankle Howerd OBE – The Borderline Case. (2/5). 4.45 Christmas Short Story: A

4.45 Christmas Short Sto Goose for Christmas. 5.00 PM. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Westher. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 7:00 News.

gating the phenomenon of the urban myth. Were you around when Bob Dylan got lost in North London? And are there really alligators in the sewers of New 8.00 The Unheard Prochet.

> Soecial. 9.00 The in Touch 9:30 Kaledoscope Feature. The Moor's Last Sigh, Salman Rushdie's first novel since The Satanic Varses, sweeps from 15th-century Spain to contemporary india in an epical story of comedy and violence. Hermions

novel and its themes. 10.00 The World Toniett, With

lanet Cohen. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O Selznick. Henry Goodman reads extracts from the personal mamos and letters of the Hollywood responsible for Gone with the Wind. (2/5). 11.00 Take Me to the River. 11.30 Darek Cooper's Naces Pleasures, Derek Cooper visits

taste, (2/5). 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Miss Smilla's

Radio 5

Virgin Radio (1235, 1197-1260s/z Jan 145.786/z PM 6.00am Robin Banks 10.00 Grahem Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forest 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

World Service

1.00 World News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 On Screen 1.30 Ports of Call 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Andy Ker-shaw's World of Music 3.00 World News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Off the Shelli Peter Pan 4.45 Country

55 Talespin (S) (4963220). 10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Bob Hoskins and Joanna Lumley voice an animation about two toys in search of

children to love them (1286305). Andersen, voiced by Helen Mirren, Hugh Laurle, David Jason and Rik Mayall (S) (7224930). 12.20 News, Weather (8185317). * 12.30 Emmerdale (R) (76046). *

1975 UK). Edwards and Sellers reunited to fruitful effect in a fairty amusing inspector Clouseau outing (42662775).

(59402030). 5.50 News, Weather (849133). * 6.00 Goldeneye: The Secret Files. Behind the scenes, yet again. Has it passed Network Centre's attention that ITV has already screened one major Bond

knows what that feels like (7171). * 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People, Lanky talent-spotter hangs around a shopping centre (S)

A dazzing performance by Williams is slowly sidelined by the plot (S) (60655404). *

money (S) (622973). 3.20 Tricks of the Trade (Jack Bender 1988 US). When her husband is murdered, a wife goes looking

Russell Braun, accompanied by the baroque orchestra, Tafelmusik (794797).

4.15 The World of Jim Henson. Collaborator Frank Oz.

5.55 News Summary, Weather (855794). *
6.00 Absolutely Christmas Animals. Dani Behr discovers argest dog shelter, in Liverpool (582152).

taking a kestrel as a pet. See Film of the Day

1.20 Street with No Name (Williams Keighly 1948

TV GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT

Prior to Rain Man (10pm Sky

all changed, though, with Barry

relationship between an autistic man (Dustin Hoffman) and his

Levinson's thoughtful study of the

Movies Gold), Tom Cruise was seen

as a bit of a Brat Pack himbo. That

seemingly careless brother (Cruise).

Queen (7224930). 12.20pm News (8185317). 12.30 Emmardale (76046). 1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (1960852). 2.05 Films Return of the Pink Parther (42662775). 4.10 Films Her Alibi (59402030). 5.50 News (849133). 6.00 Goldeneye: The Secret Files (84065). 7.00 Christmes in Emmerdale (7171). 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People (1046). 8.30 Caddael (31336). 10.00 The Beaties Anthology (6442). 11.00 News (475201). 11.10 Films: Dead Poets Society (60655404). 1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973). 3.20am The Chart Show (7197114). 4.15am On the Live Side (78176). 4.45-5.55am Film: Clancy Street Boys (3189089).

griter Toys (1286305), 10.50 Film: The Snow Queen (7224930), 12.20pm News & Weather (81265317), 12.30 Emmerciale (76046), 1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (1960862), 2.05 Film: Return of the Prink Panther (42662775), 4.10 Film: Her Althi (59402030), 5.50 News (849133), 6.00 Goldeneye. The Secret Files (84065), 7.00 Christmas in Emmerciale (7171), 8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People (1046), 8.30 Cadiael (31336), 10.00 The Bealles Arthology (6442), 11.00 News (475201), 11.10 Film: Dead Posts Society (60655404), 1.35am Film: The Sign of Four (622973), 3.20am The Chart-Show (7197114), 4.15am On the Live Side (78176), 4.45-5.55am Film: Clancy Sheet Boys (3189089).

WESTCOUNTRY

S4C As C4 except: 12.00noon Slot Meithrin (58/152), 12.30 Channel 4 Racing (32/5973) 7, 3.15 Filtrs: Miracle on 34th Street (990/67997), 5.00 Sindereta (2539), 6.00 Newyddion (58/4794), 6.10 5 Pump: Pinpin Y 2014 Abdulla (13/28/530), 6.40 5 Pump: Field

6.00am Roger Royle 7.30 Wale Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Ginger Rogers 1.00 That's Life 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 The Christmas.

tadio 3 E 2-97 (ER: 10) 600am On Air. Tchaikovsky: String Quartet No 1. Mozart: Symphony No 39 in E flat. Holst: Wind

anus (excerpts): Wagner: Nicernal (extension)

Negried (dyl.)

10.00 Musical Encounters, With
Pies Burton-Page, Holst; Of one
the is so fair and bright (carol).

Artist of the Week, Kin te
Katawa (soprano). Canteloute:
Sorgs of the Aurengne (selecto No 3 in G. Beethoven: Piano

aged by Humphrey Burron:



5.00 The Music Machine. 5.15 Fakest isle Songbook. 5.30 The Light Brigade. (1/2). 6.30 Eton Choirbook.

9.20 Penguin Caté Orchestra. A concert recorded at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol.
18.45 The Shellar Show.
11.30-12.30am Music Restored.
Bruce Wood introduces some

52434 State Rt. 1988 to 10 5.00am, News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day. 6.30 Over the Counter. (1/2). 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.40 A Christmas Cerol. (2/5).

8.40 A Christmas Carol. (2/5).
8.58 Weather.
9.00 (FM) News.
9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Coverage of the first day's play in the Fourth Test in Port Elizabeth.
9.05 (FM) Tumpty-Tumpt

choice Christmas pleasure with a special edition of Shelf Lives (9.35em R4)

> 11.00 (LW) Test Match Special. 11.00 (FM) News; Trying to Connect You, (1/2). 11,30 (FM) At Bertram's Hotel. By Agatha Christie. (2/5). 12.00 (FM) News; Trumpton Riots.

from 1.30)
1.30 (LW) Test Match Special.
1.40 (FM) The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 (FM) News; Box of Delights.
By John Massfield. (1/2).
2.00 (LW) Test Metch Special. 3.30 (FM) Kaleidoscope: Miller's
Tales. Celebrated American play-

6.15 It's Your Go! (1/4). 6.30 Cook's Tour. (1/3). 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 A Friend of a Friend... Investi-

8.30 Devout Sceptics Christmas

Les talks to the author about the

Northern Ireland to see how eals are caught and the East End of London to find out how they

Feeling for Snow. (7/15). 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 7.00am The Sreakdast Programme 9.05 Island Lina 10.05 Brief Lives 11.05 I'll Eat My Hat 11.30 5port 11.05 I'll Eat My Hat 11.30 5port on Five 6.06 Shr-O-Six 7.35 The Tuesday Metch 10.05 Voices of the Old Firm 11.05 Ages of Being 11.35 Spaced Out 12.05 Bosnia at Christmas 2.05 Up All Night 5.05 The Holly and the Archivy 5.35-7.00em The 5 Live Christmas Quiz

Classic FM (100.0-181.990b Ph) Kelly 12.00 Best of Celebrity Choica 2.00 Classic Christmas Ballet. 2.00 Classic Curstimes Ballet. Stravinsky: Petrushka (1947 ver-sion). Rossini, arr Respighi: La Bou-tique Faritasque. 4.00 Robert Booth 6.00 The Luceure Legand 8.00 Classic FM Evening Concert. A perclassic PM Evering Concern Personal selection of words and music from John Julius Norwich: 10.00 Sk of the Best with Quentin Howard 1.00 Safty Peterson 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths.

Style 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Omnibus

Satellite

7.00am The OJ Kat Show (79978). 8.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (82133). 8.30 Press Your Luck (81404). 9.00 Court TV (75864). 9.30 The Oorah Winfrey Show 9.30 The Option Witney Show (74404): 10.30 Concentration (75828): 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (60046): 12.00 Jeopardy (85220): 12.30 Murphy Brown (34084): 1.00 The Waltons (39539). 2.00 Geraldo (37220). 3.00 Court TV (1065). 3.30 The Oprain Winfrey Show 3.30 the Opran Winney Show (81/12249), 4.20 Unifum (3298794), 4.45 Ripper Tripper (5374713), 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (2317), 6.00 The Simpsors (3571), 6.30 Jeopardy

mother Kathy Whiting still dreams about her high school sweetheart. So when her friend announces that she (4881), 7.00 LAPD (3045), 7.30 M*A*5*H (3715), 8.00 The Bible: Jacob (47572). 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (66607). 11.00 Law and Order (81539). 12.00 Late is going to Deriver, the two women strike a deal: Emily will be allowed to woo him, so long as she relates the details to Kathy (762220). 11.40 SIS Extreme Justice (1993). Show with David Letterman (8744447). 12.45 The Untouchables (6199398). 1.30 The Edge (38540). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Orama starring Lou Diamond Phillips and Scott Glerin. A top se-cret unit of police officers specializes in tracking down and eliminating LA's most dangerous criminals (352152). 1.20 invisible: The 6.00am Showcase (95539). 8.00 Beethoven's 2nd (1993). Cornedy (352/32). 1.20 investment from the Chronicles of Benjamin Knight (1993). Sci-fi thriller (467:3485). 2.40 Posse (1993). Western directly and starring Mario Van Peebles (197263). 4.30-6.00am 3 Bestroven's 2nd (1993). Corredy starring Charles Grodin and Bonnie Hunt, Lovable St Bernard Besthoven talls for Missy, an attractive bitch who belongs to the heartless Regina. Pretty soon they have brought four cute pupples into the world, but evil Regins is hatching a plot to steal them (28572). 10.00 One Million Years BC (1966). Prehistoric adventure vant with Ranuel Weich

Ninjas (1992). Martial arts adven-ture for children. Stars Victor Wong, Michael Treanor and Max Eliott Stade (55114). MOVE CHARGE 6.00am Courage of Lassie (1945). A young Elizabeth Taylor stars (86881). 8.00 Yabba-Dabba Doo Celebration. feature-length carbon (59442). 10.00 Where the Red Ferri Grows Part 2 (1991). Rural drama (36442). 12.00 Wind (1992). Yachting drama (49065), 2.00 My Fevourite Wife (1940), Cornedy starring Cary Grant and Itene Dumne (48201). 4.00 Spiderman: The Cap-tive Tower (1978) (43268). 5.00 The Ramains of the Day (1993). Acciaimed Merchant Ivory period drama starring Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson (761317), 7.30 Special Feature: Seven (3775), 8.00 Demolition Man (1993). Action thriller starring Sylvester Stallone, Wesley Srilpes and Sandra Bullock, Cryogenically frozen cop John Spar tan is defrosted in the year 2032 only to discover that his nemesis, osychopathic criminal Simon Phoenix, is still at large (63510). 10.00 The Last Seduction (1994). Thriller starring Linda Florentino and Peter Berg. A woman steals a large sum of money from a pharmaceutical

choice



Cruise is by no means outshone by Hoffman at his most showy. drug deal, then goes on the run. She stops for a while in a small town and seduces an insurance salesman, confident that he is her escape ticket (781220). 11.50 Mo' Money (1992). Comedy starring Darmon and Marions Wayans. A young comman meets a beautiful employee at a cred-ft card company and joins the mail room to get to neet her. But how long can he stay on the straight and narrow? (284591). 1.20 Victim of Rage (1994) (832398). 2.55 Incident in a Small Town (1993). Murder mystery starring Walter Matthau (561824). 4.30-6.00am Dunderklumpen (1973). Mixture of live-action and animation (53756).

ZKT MONTEZ GOLD 4.00pm Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell (1968), Cornedy starring Gina Lotlobrigida, Peter Lawford and Shelly Win-ters (2591). 6.00 42nd Street (1933). Showbiz musical starring Warmer Baxter and Ruby Keeler. A dedicated producer comes up against all manner of difficulties as he attempts to produce the show of his career (40607). 8.00 Cocoon (1985). Charming film about a group of senior citizens who stumble on the secret of eternal youth thanks to a sesecret of eternal youth tranks to a se-cluded swimming pool and some un-wittingly helpful allers. Starring Jessica Tandy, Steve Guttenberg and Dom Ameche (45152). 10.00 Rain Man (1988). Orama starring Dustin Hoffman and Tom Crulse, Cruise plays a selfish brother who learns to love his autistic brother (Hoffman) for what he is, after an eventful cross-cruentry drive to Calim his inhesitance Country drive to Claim his inheritance. See Chorce. (9254471 3), 12.20 Less Than Zero (1987) (508553). 2,00-3,402m Horror of Frankenstein (1970). Black cornedy in which Dr Frankenstein is a thoroughly bad sort: he cheats on his friends, murders his father and two-times his lovers while creating his monster. Stars Raiph Bates, Kate O' Mara and Graham Jones (758263).

IIK GOLD

and Daughters (9771978). 8.30 EastEnders (9770249). 9.00 The Bill (9754201), 9.30 The Sullivars 611 (15/03510), 10.00 A Dorothy L Say ers Mystery (1296317), 11.00 Oal-las (1209881), 12.00 Sons and Daughters (9774065), 12.30 Neighbours (1614626). 1.00 East-Enders (1210997). 1.30 The Bill (1613997). 2.00 The Sullivans (59570039). 2.25 Are You Being Served? (3794881). 3.00 Angels (7607539). 3.30 Eldorado (8206201), 4.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show (95531930). 5.05 Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41858220), 6.15 Kenny's Cornu. Cuts (6097336). 6.25 EastEnders (2640084). 7.00 Eldorado (7682220). 7.30 The Liver Birds (8222249), 8.00 George and Mildred (2963959), 8.25 Butterflies (1414713), 9.00 The Sweeney (5049084). 10.00 The 8¥I (6897997). 10.35 Classic Sport (1611336). 11.35 Carrott Confidential (2175220). 12.15 Or Who (8707737). 12.45 Film:Cattle Queen of Montana (2073282). 2.15-7.00am Shopping at Night

7.00am Angels (1211626). 7.30 Neighbours (1290133). 8.00 Sons

(3163621). SIXY SPORTS

7.00am Snowboard Tour (10265).
7.30 Racing News (99572). 8.00
Test Match Cricket, Ball-by-ball cover age of the first day's play in the age of the first ody's pay in the Fourth Test between England and South Africa in Port Elizabeth. (4427152). 4.00 Sky Sports Centre Football Specal (87626). 5.00 Rug-by League. Wigan vs St Helens at Central Park (27539). 6.30 World Scores Macanage (81881). 7.30 Lose Central Park (27539), 6.30 World Soccer Magazine (81881), 7.30 Live Football: Blackburn vs Manchester City. Ray Harford's disappointing and off-beleaguered Blackburn side take on the resurgent, though still troubled. City in what promises to be a grifty blood-and-thunder foture at Ewood Park (24293881), 10.15 Sky Sports Central (345252), 10.45 Sky Sports Centre (534572), 10.45 Test March Cricket. Highlights of England vs South Africa (17127084). 12.30 Football Special (78331), 2,30-3.00am Sky Sports Centre (\$6783).

7.30am Triathlon (77978), 8.30 Rug-by (96171), 10.00 Football (63177). 12.00 Football (33930). 1.00 Speci-12.00 Robbal (33930), 1.00 Speed-world (70084), 2.30 foe Hockey (672959), 5.00 Speedworld (4794), 5.30 Football (95572), 6.30 Eu-rosport News (2065), 7.00 Motors (25997), 9.00 Football (17355), 11.00 Spooker (14881), 12.00 12.30am Eurosport News (E7755).



QUOTES OF THE YEAR QUIZ OF THE YEAR

Liverpool prepare to fulfil their potential

Football GUY HODGSON

One of the more astonishing calls to Radio Five Live's Six-O-Six recently suggested that Roy Evans ought to be dismissed as Liverpool manager. He is out of his depth was the crux of the argument, which somehow forgot the small matter of the Coca-Cola Cup last

It was a facile suggestion then and made even more so now that Liverpool bave rediscovered the verve that deserted them in November. Those who witnessed their recent destruction of Manchester United could testify that this is a team with delicious potential. and that Evans is about as un-

Roy Evans has rebuilt Liverpool into a youthful, strong-looking team," Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, said in the af-termath of their 3-1 defeat at Anfield on Saturday, "When you play an excellent side like them you get a measure of your own ability. We've got a lot of work to do if we want to challenge."
The inference was that Liv-

erpool can win the Premiership, a challenge that will assume more weight if they defeat sixthplaced Aston Villa today.

Their greatest source of optimism comes from the strike partnership that once bad the synchronicity of Morecambe and Costello, but bas since gelled to an extent - Nottingham Forest supporters please note -

der water as Neil Ruddock in that Stan Collymore provided the three-foot end. that Stan Collymore provided the passes for all three of Robbic Fowler's goals on Saturday.

"People say that Robbie and Stan can't play together," Evans said. "I think against Arsenal they proved it is not a problem." He is realistic enough, however, not to underestimate Newcastle's 1 I-point advantage over his side. We cannot afford any more slip-ups."

Kevin Keegan, a former An-field player, said: "1 believe Liverpool will still feature in the title race. I watched them beat Manchester United and some of their football was the best I've seen this season."

Villa's manager, Brian Little, has a "broken heart" to mend, not to mention a little restoration of morale after a 1-0 defeat at Oueen's Park Rangers.

The boy with the crushed core is 18-year-old Lee Hendrie. who spoilt his debut by being sent off for a second bookable offence eight minutes into in-jury time. His chance to redeem self will depend on lan Tay-

lor's ability to recover from ankle and shin injuries. Top scorer Dwight Yorke is set to return after suffering a broken nose, while Mark Drap-er, replaced by Hendrie after 34 minutes at QPR, should recover from a bruised thigh.

The task for QPR today is a trip to Arsenal, who are searching for their first win in six League matches. Tony Adams is certain to return for the Gunners after suspension. "We need to make one or two changes in personnel," Rioch said. Brace vourselves for more

stories linking the club to Paul

Ince and Alan Stubbs.
Adams will be up against
Mark Hateley, who completed
the match against Villa bloodstained and with a broken nose. Not that the old warhorse was diminished, saying: "There's no way we'll go down."

Tottenham, who squandered a two-goal lead in their disappointing home draw against Bolton Wanderers, will have full-back Dean Austin available after a three-match ban for their trip to Soutbampton. Matthew Le Tissier (calf),

plus flu victims Francis Benali and Barry Venison all missed the Saints' 2-2 draw at Sheffield Wednesday and manager Dave Merrington will wait for fitness reports before finalising his team. Middlesbrough, lying fifth,

Nicky Barmby for their visit to Everton. The former Spurs forward missed Saturday's 4-2 win over West Ham with an Achilles tendon injury. Paul Rideout is expected to spearhead the Everton attack after scoring on his return as a substitute in the 2-1 defeat at Coventry. Duncan

Ferguson is still ruled out by flu. West Ham suffered no injuries at the Riverside Stadium but must tighten their defence against Coventry at Upton Park. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, admitted: "Without Alvin Martin we have problems. It is like the blind leading the blind. I need to strengthen my defence as quickly as possible."

Wimbledon, without a win in 14 Premiership games, will be almost back to full strength at Dons goalkeeper, Paul Heald, suffered a knee injury in the 1-1 draw against Blackburn and Hans Segers could start a game for the first time since 7 March.

vie and Dejan Stefanovic could make their full debuts at Nottingham Forest, who may restore Scot Gemmill after leaving him out of the 3-1 defeat at Newcastle. That would allow Steve Stone to return to right of midfield.

from suspension for Mancheswhile the decision over which misfiring striker to drop could be made easier by Uwe Rösler's flu.

Chelsea, who are awaiting a fit-ness test on Dennis Wise. The

Sheffield Wednesday's Yugoslav imports Darko Kovace-

his favoured position on the Garry Flitcroft will be back ter City's trip to Blackburn,

in tomorrow's 24-page sports section

Reports and analysis for the Boxing Day sporting to

Ball watching



Guy Hodgson looks ahead to the Premiership match of the eason so far. Newcastie's visit to Manchester United . Plus: our top 20 Premiership ootballers of the year

First of the fourth



Derek Pringle reports from Port Elizabeth on the first day's play in the fourth Test between Mike Atherton's England and South Africa

Royal procession

Ken Jones and Richard Edmondson report from the King George VI Chase at Kempton

Derby day

Dave Hadfield reports from Central Park on the rugby league derby match between Wigan and St. Helens

Union men

Coverage of the Boxing Day programme In rugby union

Tales of the unexpectea

Strange but true: some of the most unlikely stories of 1995, including the world record that never was, the bowler who was shown the red card, and the occasion when 30 wickets fell in a single day's play at a county championship cricket match.

M Wetdinson.
South Africa (from): A C Hudson, G Kirsten, W J Cronje (capt), D J Cullman, J N Rhodes, J H Kallis, B M McMillan, O J Richardson, S M Polioch, C R Matthews, A A Donald, P R Adams, N Boje.
Limplines C J Mirchley (SA), S A Bucknor (WI). TV Replaya: R E Koertzen (SA).
Match referee: C H Lloyd (WI). OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St. Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths/Empics

England (from): M A Atherton (capt), A J Stewart, J E R Gallian, G P Thome, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell (wht), O G Cork, P J Mertin, R K llungworth, M C llott, M Watkinson.

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Adams asked to turn the outcome

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Port Elizabeth

England players who tour regularly are long used to combining their family Christmases with the more serious matter of winning Test matches. Yet this has not always proved compatible, as the previous two vuletide Tests in Melbourne have

This year in a break from the traditions of celebrating Christmas in fancy dress. England have instead spen1 most of the festive scason here singing songs and watching videos in an them. of Christmas past.

this series, which is still level pegging after three drawn matches. Any slip-ups in the fourth Test here could let the opposition in and both sides know that with so little slack to play with, few can be afforded.

But if the karaoke party - in particular Raymond Illing-worth's version of "The Twist" on Christmas Eve eased tensions and provided the appropriate hilarity, much of yesterday was spent practising, watching videolape of the leftarm wrist-spinner Paul Adams and worrving about the height

England in Kimberley, the 18year-old Adams has shown he is no flash in the pan wunderkind. jury, he will hecome South

Apart from the raw inexperience of having only played five first-class games - although Ramadhin and Valentine had only played three between them when they were first picked for the West Indies - it is a moment he is clearly relishing. "I am just looking forward to bowling my first ball," he said. He does not follow in the modern sledging

Africa's youngest Test player.

idiom, either - "I just laugh al

onate around his country as an margins of this sports-crazed land. But it is a debut that carries great pressure too, poised as it is to be made at the critical stage of the series, on a notoriously slow, flat and well-grassed pitch which looks perfect for hatting in the early

England however believe that playing Adams will be easier to play second time around. most of them having played against him at Kimberley, But the youngster's inclusion has brought problems closer to home. Dave Richardson has never kept to him before and his it that a further gross were



England realise there are an example of just what can be only 10 days of cricket left to win achieved by those so long at the



Hat-tricks: Mike Watkinson (left) and Robin Smith try to mix fun and games on Christmas Day captain, Hansie Cronje, had a long net batting against him to work out the best field settings. the wiles of Wardle.

Richardson, playing his 27th Test has never taken a stumping and he said he desperately wants one for Christmas. He has not had long to prepare, unlike Brian Taylor, who toured South

Africa with England in 1956. In those days the team travelled by boat and Taylor, who had never kept to England's leftarm spinner Johnny Wardle (then bowling chinamen) had brought a gross of tennis balls with him in order to get some practice in on deck. Legend has

But if England are now more sightscreens are too low verges on the nit-picking and suggests a side not entirely at peace with itself. South African sources report that no one has complained before about the Press box window above the sightscreen, and anyway they are coated with a special film to pre-

picked up in Gibraltar, the first lot having disappeared over-board as laylor failed to read white strip about 18 inches high has been painted to the lower edge of the windows. Interestngly, nothing as been said about the Castle Lager adverts in confident of reading Adams, hright cricket-hall red situated their complaint that the at ground level right behind the at ground level right behind the

bowler's arm. England who, providing there are no last-minute misgivings over the pilch this morning, will play the same side as as in the last Test, with the exception of Jason Gallian at No 3 for the injured John Crawley. Gallian has been pulled in to help give the innings the solid Yet Atherton and Illingworth starts it has so far lacked and will

Judging by the pitch, the bowlers will have much work to do should South Africa decide to bat with due care and atten-

tion. Once again England have plumped for swing, but as the former South African captain Kepler Wessels has already warned, it only swings at St. George's Park when the wind is from the east, a direction it was not blowing from yesterday. Unless it lightens and swings around, Ricbard Illingworth could find himself with an aching pair of spinning fingers and a hairline that has receded

hoodoo once and for all.

Business as usual for Wigan as an era ends

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

Whatever ideas clubs might come up with to try to tag their Christmas paydays on to a summer season, today's Boxing Day fixtures are the last in the

league and, in all probability, the

last that can ever be said to mean anything.
There will be the bitter-sweet flavour of an era ending, therefore, at grounds like Headingley and Central Park, when a tradition almost as old as the game itself comes to a full stop.

For Wigan, though, it is very nuch business as usual. Even if they were to lose to St Helens today - and anything is possible on Boxing Day, as the last 100 years have demonstrated - they would still need only five points from their last four matches to win the Stones Centenary Championship, and that is as suming that Saints or Leeds win

all their remaining games. Wigan hope to have Shaun Edwards back after missing last Sunday's pre-festive hiccup at Oldham, but Kelvin Skerrett is likely to be missing. Gary Connolly has a suspect groin and Craig Murdock could be out for the rest of this transitional season with a hamstring injury.

The Wigan coach, Graeme West, believes that the aston-

ishing defeat at Watersbed-

dings bas acted as a wake-up call

Dean Bell's dissatisfaction with bis Leeds squad has been shown over the last week by his approaches for the Batley scrum-balf, Glen Tomlinson, and the Salford three-quarter. Nathan McEvoy. An £80,000 cash bid has however, and Salford were im-

ever, make Wigan's pale into in-significance. Their coach, Eric

Hughes, already knows that he

will be without key players of the calibre of Paul Newlove, An-

thony Sullivan, Chris Joynt and

the suspended Bobbie Gould-

ing. He has a number of other

players struggling for fitness as well and it could be a very

patched-up St Helens side that

takes the field at Central Park.

mune to the charms of an offer which would bave seen highly experienced internationals like Alan Tait, Ricbie Eyres and Harvey Howard heading for The Willows. For the present, Bell must make do with what he has, which, to most clubs, would look rather a lot. For the tradi-

tional morning kick-off against Castleford, he hopes to have the much-missed Garry Schofield

and Tony Kemp back after injury, although both they and Marvin Golden face fitness tests. Castleford had hoped to have Frano Botica fit to make his first appearance in their colours, but his progress in recovering from a particularly badly broken leg has not been quite rapid enough. He could be in contention by

New Year. In the meantime, an-

other New Zealander, Brendon

Tuuta, could return after a sev-

en-week absence. A former Castleford player, St John Ellis, is in line to make his debut for his new club, Halifax, against the Bradford Bulls, who allowed him to move the short distance between the two towns this weekend. Ellis, aged 31, joined Bradford

ter returning from a season with the South Queensland Crushers, but his opportunities look limited now that the Bulls have acquired another goal-kicking winger, Paul Cook, from Leeds. Ellis has initially joined Halifax for the remainder of the

Centenary season, with a view to a longer-term deal. In the other top division game today, Warrington could have three first-teamers available again after injury, in the shape of Gary Chambers, Kelly Shelford and Mark Forster,

for their visit to Oldham. The home side could have the rare luxury of fielding the same side that stunned Wigan nine days ago, with only their loose forward, Howard Hill - one of the notable successes among their younger players this season - the only doubtful starter. In the First Division, Salford would tighten their grip on the top spot considerably if they

could win at Widnes. Although there have been repeated assurances that Paris will have their side ready for the start of Super League in March, the absence of any announcements on a coach or any players will keep hope alive for the winner of the division that they could be promoted to fill the void.

4

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Light-hearted teasing before entering Britain (6) One's wise to restrict

10 Occupied by Avon professor of transport? (4.5) 11 Province worth some

speed in modern times

mention at a lecture (5)
12 Disgusting molluse eats aluminium (7) 13 Could they be merry distress calls? (7)

14 King at a place no longer working (5) 15 Certainly holds communi-cations firm to be obligated (8) 18 Roves about to do some gardening perhaps wearing this? (8)

20 One taken in by leading actor finds a way up? (5)

20

23 It's played as one gets 200 in game (7) 25 Amateur takes in study. not saying much (7)

26 English nun upset by current boredom (5) Beans have grown, getting second and third prize?

28 Hot, certainly, with high temperature in ailment 29 Oblique as Latin in trans-lation? I quit (6)

DOWN

Graduates carrying husk out for Russian granny (8) Bid for lillet steak imnlied? (2-51 Oddly scale a hill, but not

Scam of Egyptian spin?

with this? (9)

Sweet suggestion of Cyprus IVR? (5) Trigger acute changes

keeping in position (7) Join line forming on street (6) An appropriate offering from Kent University?

16 They're profoundly meaningful in written music (4.5) 17 Two drugs and what he is

who takes them? (8)
19 Is able, in holiday year, to find an opening (7) 21 One seaman's stupid complaint (7) 22 Articulated cheeps could be nearest a bird gets to

3

24 It could produce oil, extra virgin initially? (5) to a side who were not playing well, reminding them that the title is not safe yet - not quite. Saints' injury problems, how-

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Salah Salah Salah

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